

epdale women's

, page 26 I

Hodgson: Back in En with Blackburn Rovers

like a B movie set

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ANALYSIS Shop around the clock

PAGE 18



THE TABLOID

Music: nine pages of pop and classical



FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 1997

...AND TOMORROW

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New Labour motors home

Blair sees Wirral by-election as the writing on the wall for Major

Anthony Bevins and Colin Brown

A Wirral South by-election drubbing for John Major last night left Labour and the Tories gearing up for the make or-break battle to come the May general election.

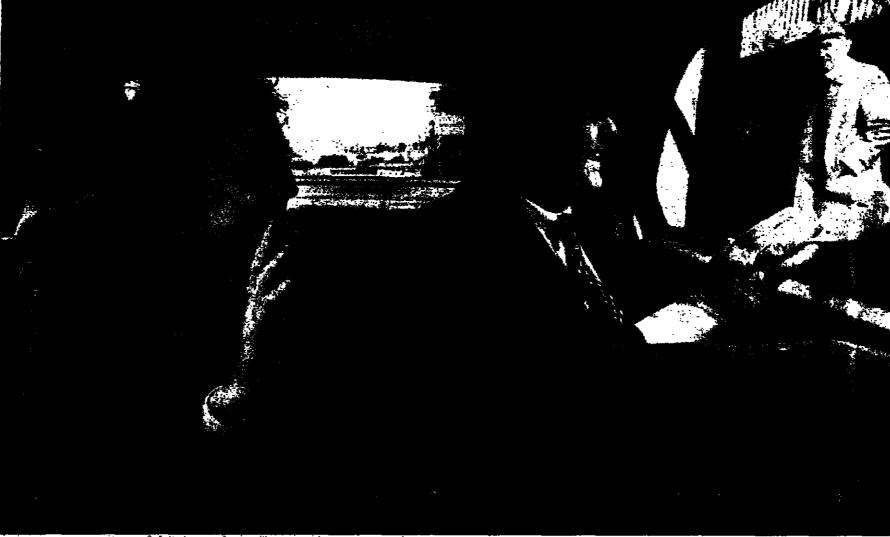
Labour said: "No party has ever lost a by-election so close to a general election, in a seat they had won at the previous general election, and gone on to win the general election." The Tories countered with a cal-culated leak of their latest "secret"

polling, claiming they had reduced Labour's lead to 11 percentage points - well within striking distance with two months' campaigning to go.
In the 1992 election, the Conservatives held blue-chip Wirral South with a formidable 16.3 per cent, 8.183-vote majority, and the loss of the seat so close to a general elec-

tion will undoubtedly hammer Tory

morale. It was the Tories' 126th most marginal séat. believe they still have all to fight for, rguing that public opinion polls are seriously exaggerating the Labour lead, and that the Conservatives always decress the Labour vote in gen-

eral election campaigns.
In Wirral itself, Tory campaign managers were confident that they would get the seat back in a May general election, though Labour sources said at Westminster. "Tories who have voted Labour in the Wirral cannot be doing so as a protest. "There is no time left for the Gov-



But John Major's close advisors Cruising to victory: Labour's Ben Chapman on the Wirral campaign trail with Lewisham East MP Bridget Prentice yesterday

ernment to change its ways. We have. Sir Patrick Mayhew, Secretary of election cycle, most of them will stay with Labour."

However, in a clear attempt to give itself maximum room for manoeuvre, the Government last night announced a blatant political sweetener for the Ulster Unionists, offering enhanced powers for the Northern Ireland Grand Committee.

no doubt that, having taken such a State for Northern Ireland, said the serious decision at this stage of the grand committee would be given grand committee would be given powers to meet in Ulster, and that t would be provided with a legislative role. The move will be welcomed by the Unionists because it further binds Northern Ireland into the Union with the rest of the United

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, signalled yesterday that his following completion of his legisla-party would not seek to bring the tive programme, and an Easter Acceding to a Unionist demand.

Government down over the next few weeks, even though the loss of Wirral South again drives the Gov-

etrument into a Commons minority. Without Unionist support, there is no point in Labour putting down Commons motion of no confidence, in an attempt to force an early election. Mr Major is therefore left ree to announce an eventual dissolution of Parliament for 8 April,

tive programme, and an Easter

tion of a 1 May election.

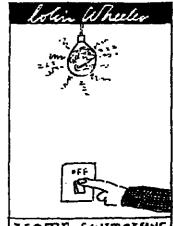
With ministers braced for a weekend of panic over the Tories' showing in Wirral South, the Conservatives' private polling shows that Labour's lead of 19 per cent before Christmas. was being whittled down until Gordon Brown announced Labour's commitment not to increase spending for two years, and to fix the rates of income tax at their present level.

a national poster campaign featuring Tony Blair - may have dismayed traditional Labour supporters, but have stopped the Tories narrowing

the gap any further.

The tracking polling by Conservative Central Office is a closely-guarded secret, but the results have been revealed to ministers who were claiming last night that it shows there is still "all to play for".

The results of the polling, which Tory strategists are studying close-Those two pledges - coupled with



ly, underline the importance of the Tories' attack on Labour on tax. Morale in Conservative Central Office has improved from a low base because of the polling results, and it remains stoical. "The thing that could finish us is the "time-for-achange factor," said one minister, who has seen the polling. "Even some of our own supporters are saying it's not good for democracy to have one par-

ty in power for 20 years." Labour is exploiting that vulnerability by condemning Conservative ambitions to create a "one-party

At a Westminster press briefing yesterday, Mr Trimble welcomed moves by the Government to show it was "listening" to Ulster Unionist concerns:

He received a guarantee this week in a personal letter from the Prime Minister that Ulster would be included in a scheme to cut the business rates by more than half for village shops, post offices, and other village premises, such as the village

bought off, Mr Trimble said he doubted that Labour would attempt to bring down the Government before 1 May "because they are having difficulty in getting their vote out"

in the House of Commons.
"What is the point of a couple of weeks if you had an early election? You would have Easter in the middle of the campaign. I can see pros and cons with that, but more cons, Mr Trimble said.

Continental rifts: protectionism will harm consumers, but Euroscepticism has its dangers too

EU trade ban will cause fruit shortage

lan Burrelt.

British supermarkets face severe shortages of oranges, grapefruits and other citrus fruits this summer because of highly-contentious import restrictions being planned in Brussels. Furious British food im-

porters accused the European Union of using "pseudo-scientific" arguments to set up an effective trade ban on fruit from South Africa and South America, from where Britain gets its entire summer citrus crop.
Food industry sources said yes-

terday that the proposed re-strictions - ostensibly aimed at protecting European citrus plants from pests - could set a catastrophic precedent for the organic finit and vegetable market.
The EU Standing Committee
on Plant Health is due to decide today whether to impose a ban on citrus fruits from countries

affected by the non-European

And a beer to go

SEELING PREMIUM

fruit fly and other plant pests, amiess they are subjected to expensive treatments. The move, led by Greece, would hand the European citins market to Mediterranean producers. Greece, Italy, Spain

in cold storage for local markets survive shipment to Britain.

The restrictions would also bring chronic shortages of orange juice in the late summer, when most juicing oranges are imported from the southern

The Ministry of Agriculture is fighting the restrictions but Britain has been isolated by other member states who are sympathetic to the producer countries of the Mediterranean.

British officials in Brussels spoke yesterday of their fears of unnecessary restrictions being put into place. "We are con-cerned about what the trade effects are going to be, partic-ularly for the South African and Zimbabwean producers," said one. "The other non-producing states do not appear to have woken up to the possible effects on consumers and suppliers."

Traditionally Britons have eaten little citrus fruit in the summer because of poor quality. During the past decade, eating habits have been changed by imports of superior fruit from the

southern hemisphere. Britain now imports 186,000 and Corsica produce citrus dur-ting the winter. Produce is kept from this source, with 98,000



Oranges and lemons: Britons may find citrus fruit in short supply this summer if EU import restrictions come into force

tons coming from South Africa and 53,000 tons from Argentina and Uruguay. During the winter, the market switches to southern Europe, Israel and the

United States. The pests identified by the Brussels committee pose no risk to human health and have never caused any problems to the British supply trade. The fruit flies die when they en-counter the British chimate.

The proposed restrictions come against a background of arguments over moves for closer trade links between Europe and South Africa, which is seen as a threat by some member states because of its low pro-

duction costs. Doug Henderson, chief executive of the Fresh Produce Consortium, said: "The southern member states are using plant health regulations as a means of protecting their mar-ket inside Europe ... [The moves] will restrict competition.

push up prices." The EU committee may agree a compromise, allowing the import of citrus fruit which has been subjected to chilling and vapour treatments. Such treatments would not be possible for this year's crop.

restrict consumer choice and

Asian firms' investment in **UK** tumbles

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The Government's claim that its European policy poses no threat to inward investment is called into question today by a United Nations report showing that the UK's share of foreign investment in the European Union has fallen sharply.

Today, Adair Turner, the Confederation of British Industry's director general, will is-sue an unusually outspoken warning against the dangers of British isolation from Europe.

These alarm signals will severely embarrass the Government, which has always claimed that its opt out from the social chapter and other signs of semidetachedness actively attract overseas businesses. However, it is likely to strengthen the Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's pro-European position against the sceptics in the Cabinet.

Mr Turner, in a speech to businessmen in Cardiff, will say that Europhobia is increasing Britain's isolation within the EU. "Our views will go unheeded, our influence will diminish. Ultimately our access to the single market could be at risk - to our enormous economic disadvantage."

backed by the normally Eurosceptic Institute of Directors yesterday. Ruth Lea, head of policy at the rival employers' or-ganisation, said: "In so far as there is a feeling among overseas investors that Britain might cut loose from the EU, this is

Mr Turner's warnings are given extra force by today's report from the UN's Conference on Trade and Development. This shows that Britain's share of rising investment in Europe by foreign companies, especially from Japan and the rest of Asia, has shrunk.

a matter for concern."

Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "These figures show how hollow are the Tory boasts on inward investment. The UK share of inward investment from the Far East has dropped fast."

Today's developments follow warnings by big companies that the UK's negative attitude to its European partners and the single currency might affect their investment plans. Japanese car manufacturer Toyota, Germany's Siemens, and British-based companies including BP and Unilever have all spoken out.

ACADEMY AWARD

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'THE PIANO'

A FILM BY JANE CAMPION

MALKOVICH



STARTS TODAY ~ AT A CINEMA NEAR YOU

he video referee Calls Sir TV replays to be used billowed Wednesday's penalty lecision in the Cheisea v Leices in the Chelsea v Leices Page 27

Nazi gold dismay Only three families affected by the Holocaust have a rightful claim to funds held in Swiss bank ac-

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significant shorts

Accused stab girl 'feared violence against herself'

A girl accused of murdering teenage hairdresser Katie Rackliff was herself frightened of being stabbed, a court was told yesterday.
Winchester Crown Court heard that she told a probation officer. "When I die, someone will have to shoot me, because I couldn't be stabled." Probation officer Sarah Brydon told the court: "She said,

It must be awful, knowing what's happening."

The girl, now 17, was 12 at the time of the attack on Katie, 18, in June 1992. The girl, who for legal reasons cannot be named, denies murder. Katic, from Hawley, Hampshire, suffered 29 stab wounds, including injuries to her genitals.

Police chief rejects masons call

Greater Manchester's police chief has refused to introduce a register for Freemasons, in defiance of advice from his national governing body. David Wilmot, the Chief Constable, is believed to be the first in the country to go against the recommendation of the Association of Chief Police Officers that all serving members of the United Kingdom's 43 police forces should declare membership of

Mr Wilmot was said to be against the register, which he regarded as "unconstitutional" and "an infringement of personal

Royal presence on the Web

Can you make an anorak out of ermine? And what does the Queen think is cool? The answers may be revealed next week when the Queen gets her own site on the World Wide Web. She will join the ranks of caffeine-fuelled American adolescents with 150 pages of information about royal topics, from finance to descriptions of the

Buckingham Palace said yesterday that the site's World Wide Web address will not be revealed until it is officially launched on Thursday. "In the modern day and age, if there's a Web out there the Queen should be on it," said a spokeswoman. "We don't all use quill pens here, you know - we're on computers too." She would not say whether the site will contain "hot links" to other Web addresses - a popular way of pointing surfers to "cool" sites.

Modern-day St Trinians banned



A bus company has banned almost 1,000 schoolchildren following a series of attacks on drivers and vehicles.

The Provincial Bus Company in Portsmouth, Hants, has banned pupils from the King Richard secondary school from using its buses to travel to and from school. Parents have received a letter from the school's headteacher informing them their children will not be able to use Provincial buses from next Monday. The company said it decided to

impose the week-long ban after an upsurge of violence and vandalism in which drivers reported windows smashed, emergency exits opened and money stolen.

Mike Smith, Provincial operations director, said: "There has been a series of very serious events on buses. We've had numerous complaints from passengers saying who in their right mind would get on a bus with these animals?".

Head teacher Peter Warburton, said the school had made a great effort to improve pupils' behaviour on buses and had taken disciplinary action against some. Angry parents claimed the company was over-reacting and some threatened to keep their children off school rather than see them face a long walk

Murdered aunt case goes to appeal

The case of Sheila Bowler, jailed for life in 1993 for the murder of her late husband's elderly aunt, has been referred to the Court of Appeal by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. Bowler, a music teacher from Rye. East Sussex, was found guilty at Hove Crown Court of pushing 89-year-old Florence Jackson into the River Brede, apparently to secure her inheritance from being eaten up by

On I May 1995, she appealed against her conviction but the appeal judges did not accept the expert geriatric evidence put before them that Aunt Flo could have been much more mobile than anyone realised.

Mr Howard has now decided that new material submitted by her laywers - primarily medical evidence about the mobility of elderly people - has merited her case being sent back for a second appeal. Grania Langdon-Down

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Rock of ages: The national monument to St David in Cardiff City Hall (Photograph: Rob Stratton)

Picking over bones of the past to unravel a legend

will celebrate St David's Day tomorrow with the news that the remains of its patron saint are not where they were thought to be. For years, legend has had it that the bones of the saint were in a wooden casket discovered in the last century in the stone walls of St David's Cathedral. Inside the box were the bones of three people, including what many believed to be the bones of St David, because they fitted the description of the saint. as being a tall man, around 6ft – highly unusual for In the principality believed it would have boosted the 7th century.

But samples of the bones taken for analysis and erator Unit, which employs techniques similar to those self, said: "In the 16th century there was a determined used on the Turin Shroud, have now proved that the effort to break up the cult of St David and the offiremains are those of an 11th or 12th-century man clat shrine and relics disappeared. Until then, pilwho ate a lot of fish, possibly Saint Caradog, who

The analysis showed that the remains could not and two were the equivalent of a journey to Rome." have been those of David, who died in 601, who was: canonized by the Pope in 1120 and whose relics first

went missing in 1538. of the analysis were reto the fish-eating St Caradog are likely to be returned
to the wooden casket and put back into the cathe-

Widow wins

final battle for

frozen sperm

Diane Blood (right), the widow who battled for two years to have her dead husband's baby, was

yesterday granted final permission

to be artificially inseminated in a Belgian clinic. She celebrated with Cham-

pagne, and immediately rang her

thority unanimously decided to al-

Ruth Deech, chairman of the authority, which is thought to have

husband's sperm for treatment.

spent £100,000 fighting the case,

port after a High Court ruling in

Mrs Blood's favour. It had written

"This is the only way to resolve

the tragic situation for Mrs Blood,

said Mrs Deech. "We've been con-

integrity of the principle of consent

and we are pleased that the Court

of Appeal has confirmed this."

Asked if she felt the HFEA

should apologise to the widow,

Mrs Deech said: "I don't think an

apology is called for because all

the way our view of UK law has

She added that if the Court of

The BBC sought to quell accusations of left-wing bias

To reinforce its commitment to political impartiality.

the corporation also made it clear that Joy Johnson,

recently on a short-term contract ,would have no in-

volvement in editorial matters or programme-making

Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News, said that

the position of Mr Bradshaw, who has not worked

a former Labour Party communciations director, hired

on the eve of the general election by conceding last

night that it was wrong to grant paid leave to Ben

Bradshaw, a high-profile Radio 4 presenter who is

fighting a key marginal seat for the Labour Party.

been upheld by the courts."

during the election campaign.

cerned throughout to uphold the

one which will not arise again."

to her solicitors and to the clinic

where the sperm is stored.

said it had finally agreed to the ex-

low her to export her late

parents-in-law, after the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Auprogress of the scientific evaluation at Oxford and Involved forensic pathologist Professor Bernard

The Dean of St David's, the Very Rev Wyn Evans, himself an archaeologist, said the results and the newfound link with Caradog were surprising and intriguing. th means the early history of St David's Cathedral will have to be re-written," he added.

Had the bones proven to be the real thing, many tourism.

The Rt Rev Huw Jones, the current Bishop of St grimages here had a high profile. Three pilgrimages to St David's were the equivalent of one to Jerusalen

The search may now start again for the final resting place of the remains of St David. And the relics of the fish-eating St Caradog are likely to be returned vealed to the Welsh preople last night in HTV's In dral where they have tain for the last 900 years. Search of David, documentary, which followed the ::.

Diana may be

called to sacked

maid's tribunal

former maid sues her for wrongful

dismissal next week, it emerged

McDermott, who lost her cleaning

Lawyers acting for Sylvia

job at Kensington Palace in

November, said they were

considering seeking a witness order - the industrial tribunal

equivalent of a court subpoena -

which would oblige her to attend.

Amy and Partners, who is acting

confirmed that she will not be

seeking a witness order.

attending, so we are considering

obliged to attend.
"The hearing on Wednesday 5

that Sylvia McDermott be re-

employed by the Princess."

"If it is granted, then she will be

March is to seek to secure an order

The maid joined the household

of the Prince and Princess of Wales

in July 1987 and stayed with Diana

1992. Her duties involved dusting

and cleaning the royal apartments.

come after two face-to-face meet-

ings with the princess.

greater sense of urgency." He expained that Mr Brad-

shaw had been removed from any involvement in edi-

torial work in order to protect programmes from any

The dismissal is alleged to have

when the couple separated in

Solicitor Anu Kapoor of Michael

for the maid, said: "The lawyers for the Princess of Wales have

Diana, Princess of Wales, may have to give evidence at an

industrial tribunal when her

yesterday.

briefing

Poll shows wide acceptance of women's right to choose

Two-thirds of the public believe abortion should be made legally available for all who want it - a 10 per cent increase on 1000. according to the latest opinion poll on the issue, published yesterday. An even larger majority of the public support the right to an abortion where the woman's life or health are in danger or if she has been raped.

Although there is a significant drop in the number of people backing abortion where it is likely the baby would be born mentally or physically handicapped, there is still support from more than two-thirds of the public.

The poll, described as the most definitive study of public attitudes to abortion since 1980, was carried out by MORI. It was commissioned by the Birth Control Trust, which supports the right of women to make their own choices about pregnancy and abortion.

There was little difference between the views of men and women. Those aged 25-34 were most likely to back the right to an abortion. And the more affluent an individual was, the more likely he or she was to agree with abortion, although the difference between social classes was not particularly marked.

Surprisingly, 50 per cent of Roman Catholics backed the right to an abortion.

an abortion - contravening the Church's teaching on the matter, compared with 38 per cent who disagreed.

MOTORING

Car care takes a back seat

Most motorists have no driving ambition to care for their cars, says a survey out today. Only one third say their car is something they can enjoy, while nearly half only wash their vehicles on an occasional basis, said the survey, from the Direct Line insurance company. Just one in 10 of the 1,600 car-owners questioned described car occurrently as a survey of classified car occurrently as a survey occurrently as a survey of classified car occurrently as a survey occurrently as a survey occurrently as a survey of classified car occurrently as a survey of classified car occurrently as a survey occurre

described car ownership as a source of pleasure.

"It seems that increased time pressures in our lives, and busier roads, mean than enjoying and caring for our cars has become a low priority," said Annette Court, Direct Line's motor insurance

Crime may be one of the canses of driver discontent. Another poll, by the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association, found that a fifth of car owners had suffered vehicle crime in the last year and one-in-three drivers expected to be a victim in the next 12



AGRICULTURE

Making more of salad days

Britain's growers must turn to speciality crops in a bid to boost the country's withering salad industry, according to research published today. The study, by scientists at Strathelyde University, said improve the country's £224m salad industry.

Britain has the lowest salad consumption rate in Europe. according to the report. It said UK consumers eat only 15kg of salads a year, compared to the Spanish, who cat more than 95kg. The study's authors said producers should not concentrate on commodity products, but must focus on speciality lines, such as

cherry, truss and plum tomatoes, unusual varieties of lettuce and other leaf crops.

The British salad industry produces around 400,000 tonnes of produce worth £224m in retail terms. The European industry is

worth around £6bn. Spain is the largest producer of salads, with 5.1million tonnes produced in 1994 - 55 per cent of the market. Britain is one of Europe's major salad importers, accounting for more than half of domestic consumption.

EDUCATION

Welsh should be allowed to die

Welsh children's prospects are being blighted by misguided weish children's prospects are being originess by misginded attempts to preserve the Welsh language, says a paper published go today by the Social Affairs Unit. Welsh, it argues, should be allowed to die. Then it might survive as many dead languages have—as a language of poetry and myth.

Children are taught in Welsh in most schools in the counties of Gwynedd and Dyfed, and Welsh is a compulsory subject in most schools in the west of Welsh is a compulsory subject in most schools in the west of Welsh is a compulsory subject in most

schools in the rest of Wales. Yet four-fifths of people in the schools in the rest of Wales. Net tom-intus of people in the principality do not speak Welsh. So four-fifths of children are spending time learning a language that will be no use to them, since all Welsh speakers also speak English.

Professor Christie Davies, a sociologist from Reading University says that if the language were allowed to die: "Dead Welsh could then be the Latin of the peoples of Britain."

Loyalty Misplaced, £12.95 plus £1.50 postage, the Social Affairs Unit, 314-322 Regent Street, London WI SAB.

Judith Judd

First cut is the deepest Male babies circumcised without anaesthetic have heightened pain

responses for months afterwards, suggesting the way their bodies perceive pain is altered. According to a paper in the Lances, these who were circumcised reacted most strongly to vaccinations, four to six months later. The authors suggested that increased pain reactions so long afterwards may be because the memory of early distress was re-experienced, triggered by the pain of the injection.

The infants' reactions were videotaped, and the percentage of time they cried and certain facial features (brows bulging, eyes squeezed shut and furrow between the nose and upper lip) were measured. Uncircumcised infants showed least pain while those circumcised without anaesthetic were in greatest pain.

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explicit, the body would have re-

"This is obviously wonderful,

wonderful news. I am very, very re-

slightly bewildered still and I don't

"It has just been a long time

think I can sum it up. There have

been so many different emotions."

treatment, adding: "I have felt un-

able to make any arrangements so

Glenda Cooper and

David Garfinkel

She said she had not yet made

and so many emotions, I don't

any firm arrangements for her

far. I am glad now to be able to

speak to people sensibly and

make arrangements.

fused her wishes once again.

lieved." said Mrs Blood. "i am '

yet fully believe it."



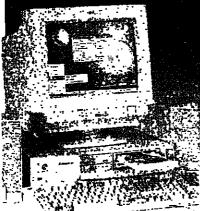
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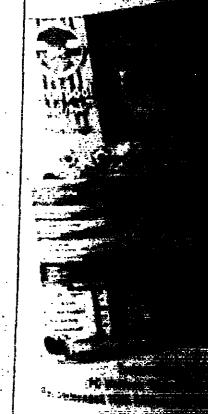
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Radical government plans to restrict the right to a crown court jury trial for scores of criminal offences came under concerted attack yesterday. As lawyers and civil liberties

groups condemned the proposl as a unjust and unnecessary. it also became clear that it could lead to thousands of criminals getting lighter sentences from magistrates, contrary to the "get tough" message of Michael Howard, the Home Secretary but saving millions of pounds of expenditure on jails.

In a Commons statement on a review of delay in the criminal justice system, jointly commis-sioned by Mr Howard, the Lord Chancellor and the Attorney General last autumn, the Home Secretary made the radical sug-

ed, the day after being charged. The proposals were warmly welcomed by the police. But it was equally clear yesterday that much more work remains to be done on the package - no de-tailed cost/benefit analysis has been obtained and no cut-off date for consultation has been specified - while Mr Howard

conceded that he would have to

consider the "especially sensi-

tive" proposal for restricting jury trial "particularly carefully". The objective of reducing delay was emphasised in recent speeches to magistrates by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, in advance of yesterday's pa-per, drawn up by Martin Narey, a senior Home Office official.

But there was hostile reaction yesterday to the paper's suggestion that the venue for socalled "either way" cases gestion that if all its 33 recom-mendations were implemented almost all defendants would be including a range of theft, bur-glary, fraud and other offences of dishonesty, and sexual, vio-

'Ancient' right dates from 1855

While it has undoubtedly passed into our constitutional framework, the right of a defendant to elect trial by jury is not as an-cient as sometimes believed. The before 1855, there were only a rincrease their chances of ac-

two categories of offence those triable only on indictment and those triable only After that, the distinction became blurred. The 1855 Administration of Justice Act

allowed JPs to my minor larcenies (dishonesty offences), with the consent of the accused. The magistrate's decision to retain changes were said to have been made for "diminishing expense and delay in the administration of criminal justice". The list of "either way" offences expanded, most notably in the 1925 Criminal Justice Act, which included for the first time such crimes as serious theft offences,

ily harm and some forgery offences. Ministers claim that quittal. Supporters of the right claim it is vital in dishonesty cases where a conviction stains a person's character. But, like sterday's paper, the 1993 Royal Commission on Criminal Justice recommended that defendants should no longer have an absolute veto over a jurisdiction. JPs should consider factors including the defen-

dant's previous reputation and

past record, the gravity and compenity of the case and the

likely effect on the accused,

the commission said.

lent and drug offences -- should be decided by magistrates. Mr Howard told MPs that about 20 per cent of all those tried in crown courts - about 24,000 defendants each year – insisted on being tried there despite justices having decided the case was suitable for them. "About twothirds of those defendants then

plead guilty at the crown court."

Defendants with a good reason for a jury trial, including defending an unblemished reputation, would be able to argue the reasons before the magistrates, Mr Howard said. But there was condemna-

tion from the Law Society and the Bar. Robert Owen QC, chairman of the Bar Council, said many thousands of people would lose their right to be tried in front of a jury of ordinary men and women at a time when the crown court system was

coping with the demands on it. Mr Howard told MPs that total savings to the criminal jus-tice system flowing from the report could amount to £110m, of which £70m would relate to the proposal to limit jury trials.

The Home Office estimates that some 18,000 offenders would be tried by magistrates, who can only imprison for a naximum of six months, rather than crown court juries if the plans were implemented.

At present, 56 per cent of defendants in crown courts receive a jail sentence. Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, estimated that even if all these got the maximum jail sentence available to magistrates, the daily prison population would drop by 2,500, saving £50m a year in running costs and leading to capital savings equivalent to three or four jails. This is not about quality of justice. It's about saving money," he said. The paper contains a range of

further controversial suggestions likely to provoke criticism, including switching 17-year-olds to adult courts and restrictions on the use of lawyers Patricia Wynn Davies by those pleading not guilty.



Butcher reopens with a clean slate

Steve Boggan

حكنا من الاحل

He looked like a man waking from a long dream. Or, as he put it, a nightmare.

Eighteen people had died and more than 400 had fallen ill since John Barr last opened his butcher's shop for business. so twisting the lock on the door was no easy matter. "I didn't sleep much last night," he said. "I can't say I'm happy to open up again; so many people have died. But let's say I'm relieved."

Mr Barr's shop in Wishaw, outside Glasgow, was closed three months ago after the death of Harry Shaw, aged 80, the first of 18 people to succumb to the deadly effects of E.coli 0157 bacteria poisoning. The butcher is facing a

charge of culpable and reckless conduct over the supply of cold-meats which caused illness, but no deaths, at an 18th birthday party. But environmental health officials gave him the all-clear to reopen yesterday after satis-

fying themselves that his shop presented no risk to the public. Pennington's report to the letter and possibly even further than His staff of 30-plus - who he had continued to pay during the that to make sure that the pubcrisis - turned out in crisp white lic is 150 per cent safe," said Mr uniforms, smiling broadly as Barr, a quietly-spoken man of 51, they brought out tray after tray well-loved in the community but clearly deeply affected by what has happened. There has been of pristine meats. And, in line with the recommendations of

An elderly woman has died in

a Norfolk hospital from E. coli

food poisoning, a spokeswoman

Alice Gourley, 67, died at the James Paget Hospital, Great

Yarmouth, after a two-week

The hospital spokeswoman

struggle against the infection.

said vesterday.

Professor Hugh Pennington, the microbiologist appointed to investigate the outbreak, there were now two counters; one for cooked and another for

get the phone calls and more than 600 letters and cards of support from as far away as Australia and America. And then I began to wonder what would happen to my staff if I closed, and I knew I would have to try again,

nothing to prove it came from here," he said defensively. The past three months have There were times at the begin-

E. coli victim dies in Norfolk

believed to be a "totally isolat-

thorough investigation.

The hospital had lannched a

The food poisoning outbreak

David Horusey, chief envi-

ronmental officer for Great

has claimed 20 lives in Scotland

over the last three months.

ed incident".

"We have followed Professor er reopen, but then I began to said Mr Barr's prosecution should have come first. But, in Wishaw, they were in the minority. Most others were delighted that their favourite

> a 22-year-old microbiology student who bought two meat bri-Lawyers for the hundreds who fell ill said yesterday that dies - or pies - costing 88p. "My they felt it was too soon for the family have been coming here butcher to reopen. Paul Santoni, 60, and Lucy Kennedy, who has

said an investigation had

"The incubation period can

be as long as 7 to 10 days or as

little as three days. Her infec-

tion was reported at the begin-

ning of this month - so I can be

quite confident that if there were

any more cases, we would have

already been carried out.

for years and we're not going to stop now," said David Goodwin. By 10am the shop was packed with customers and goodwill, with backslapping and congratulations. Customers and staff were apprious to convey their condolences to the bereaved but, gradually, a car-

butcher had reopened. First

through the door at 7.30am was

nival atmosphere descended. Outside, six elderly women rounded a corner and, wearing sashes bearing the word "Con-gratulations", skipped down the road towards the shop singing a song they had made up. It was terribly sung but the chorus went: "If yae're no John Barr.

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PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS



Blair 2/10

If Blair thought Major should have acted on the report already, he might have said so; if not, he might have asked about something else. Instead he pursued the same topic.

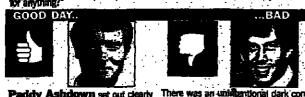
John Major pleaded Ignorance of Blair's chosen top-Major Ic, a Defence Select Committee report on De-2/10 fence Medical Services. He said he hadn't yet read the report, but he "most cartainly would".

*Gulf War Syndrome (Neil Gerrard, Lab, Walthamstow, Alex Salmond, SNP. Bardt and Buchan; Paddy Ashdown and Blair)

dication of school lest results (Bavid Congdon, C. Croydon) The Army reserve (Tim Rathbone, C, Lewes)

*The BSE crisis in Scotland (Andrew Welsh, SNP, Angus East) Dead stoweways arriving in New Holland and Immingham (Michael Brown,

BLAIR'S ATTACK Did Major accept the Defence Select Committee's report in its criticisms of MoD medical provision? "Of course we will examine the seport" said Major. Stair then asked Major, if he didn't like what he read, who would take responsibility? "I suggest the Rt Hon Gentleman weits until we have examine it, of course we will," said Major. Blair clearly thought Miglor should have read the report, and have answers, but he devoted his tillid question to a sest the Rt Hon Gentleman waits until we have examined soundbite: "when does anyone in this Government ever take responsibility



fumble and then to resort to anary bluster about scapegoets.

plaint about stowaways: "although they are illegal immigrants, they are be done about it.



In his anger at John Prescott's categils, Malar resorted to an un-parliamentary but exocative image. There is a word for that: I beliave it's hypocrisy, Madam Speaker. and it's absolutely and it seeps. It seeps out of the Deputy Legiler of the Labour.

Gerrard on Guif War Syndrome: "Doesn't this dental of responsi-bility prove that the Hon Member for Old Bedey and Sidcup's (Sir Edward Heath's) assessment of the Secretary of State for Defence [Michael Portillo] as 'not honouraby was spot on?"

mpts by Unions and the party opposite togendermine thase sts?

Compared by Bian Summars



Child medicines fear

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Children are being prescribed hundreds of medicines which have never been properly tested or licensed for use on very young people, a cross-party committee of MPs said in a Commons report criticising the NHS for failing to cater more for children's needs.

Paediatricians are left having to guess child dosages as a percentage of the adult dose, and some medicines which are giv-

en to children - such as Vitamin K, given to babies at birth - are not licensed for humans. One medicine used on premature babies to help them breathe has never been ap-

children under three. The Commons Select Comformer Conservative minister Marion Roe, said it was "astonished" to discover that medicines tested and licensed for without proper checks. The

proved and is not intended for

MPs said the public would also be astonished at the discovery. Many medicines currently given to the children are administrated by a route, in a formulation, or in a dosage which

Medicines Control Agency. The Government has been mittee on Health, chaired by aware of the lack of checks on children's medicines since a working party report in December 1995.

has not been approved by the

Department of Health offiadults were given to children cials said the situation was "clearly unsatisfactory", but

pointed out that the Medicines Control Agency had no evi-dence that any children had suffered harm as a result of a lack of specific testing and licensing for children.

Expressing deep concern, the MPs said: "In the absence of a satisfactory system of testing and licensing, we cannot know that this is the case, nor can we know of the minority of cases - possibly a very timy minority-where children have suf-fered actual harm from taking such medicines." Audrey Wise, a Labour

member of the committee said the MPs did not want parents to panic. "There is this guestimate' attitude and I don't think we would stand for that with adults," she added.

Experts in child health said parents should not fear their children were at risk.

The most commonly used medicines such as cough mixtures and antibiotics are fully tested on children before being sold over the counter or prescribed.

The committee has spent months investigating children's health, and said it did not produce a more comprehensive report because of the shortage of time before the general elec-

But its findings will put children's health high on the agenda for whichever party is



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Disgrace in favour as Labour riposte

The word "disgrace" is currently the Labour abuseword of choice. It can be lengthened lovingly to a satisfying "ab-so-lute disss-grrace", or - enhanced by two saliva bursts - spat out for that desirable Added Contempt effect. Since it took over from the much more unwieldy "obscenity" (about a month ago), there has been a competition among Labour backbenchers to see who can deliver it with most venom.

Eric Prentice, a John Laurie soundalike from Pendle, is currently winning. Poor Mr Prentice inhabits an exhausting world. Too much milk in your ten? Disgraceful! Been in the bathroom too long? It's a disgrace!

So, when his colleague, Neil Gerrard (Walthamstow). asked the Prime Minister a question about the victims of Gulf war syndrome, it was naturally a "disgrace" that "noone in government is prepared to accept personal responsibility!" (ie. to resign). Mr Major told him - without too much rancour - that there would be compensation for victims, but that first "we need to establish what caused the ailments". Action would then follow.

"Give us Soames!" shouted Tony Banks, in an inaccurate Biblical reference to the crowd's demand for Barabbas to be freed. "Disgraceful!" shouted other, more conventional Labour MPs, but Mr Major looked to have weathered the storm. Especially since Tony Blair then asked about a related, but unlinked, issue - a Defence Scient Committee report published that morning - on defence medical services. This painted a picture of the armed forces returning to the days of bloody-aproned sawbones conducting al fresco amputations without anaesthetic.

Theoretically this question was easier for the Prime Minister. He had not read the report, he told Mr Blair. He'd heard of it, sure, but he hadn't actually read it. He would read it, of course he would. And when he had, wild horses would not be able to prevent him from commenting. Mr Blair persisted. If, when he did read the report, he found that things were dreadful, "which minister will take responsibility?" Mr Blair should wait, replied the PM. until the report had been read. But he was able to welcome the report's endorsement of aspects of the Government's policy. "But you said you hadn't read it!". shouted Labour. "I haven't read it!" Mr Major shouted

back, rattled. "It's a disgrace!" replied Labour, happily. The degree of the PM's rattlement became apparent later when John Prescott interrupted a high-pitched Major peroration on the danger of trades unions, by calling out "wait till Wirral tonight!" "Wait till Wirral he says!" yelled the PM, his voice rising to glass-threatening pitch. "He doesn't address the issue! He is steeped in hypocrisy!" "You're a disgrace!" someone shouted back.

The mood of chaotic despair spread from the leader to the led. In a contribution that testifies to the terrible confusion that happens when humanity meets Howardism. Michael Brown (C, Brigg and Cleethorpes) raised the question of stowaways arriving at the port of lmmingham. Fleeing from Nigeria and Sierra Leone, many were suffering. He finished thus: "These people, are travelling in dreadful conditions. Although they are illegal immigrants they are arriving dead. And something needs to be done about it!"

There was a moment of silence. Then, on Labour's front bench, Frank "Beaver" Dobson began to laugh - ar first surreptitiously like a naughty schoolboy, and then out loud, his furry face becoming a nocturne in red and silver. And those behind him, for whom the words "immigrants" and "dreadful conditions", usually conjure up one word only - "disgrace" - also began to giggle and some to guffaw. Yesterday - for Labour - everything was a hoot.

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Tebbit pours scorn on Heseltine the fixer

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Further evidence of the deepseated personal detestation felt by leading Conservatives for their party colleagues was pro-vided yesterday by Lord Tebbit in a review of a book on Michael Heseltine, Writing of his former Cabinet

times his conduct has been tasteless, tacky if not dishon-ourable, and self-centred beyond even the call of his profession." In a review of Michael Crick's new biography of the Deputy Prime Minister, he wrote in the Speciator. The only thing for which Heseltine will be remembered, [is] the po-litical regicide which brought

colleague, Lord Tebbit said: "At

down our greatest post-war prime minister." He said that as an adolescent, Mr Heseltine turned himself into a political missile, targeted on the office of Prime Min-ister. "Like a laser-guided weapon, once assigned to his mission, Heseltine has remained on track ever since."

satisfaction from his conclusion, that the missile's chances of hitting its target - Number 10 were fast receding. "It is still on track but running out of fuel," he said, "and the target is accelerating away".

As for the book's judgement,
Lord Tebbit said: "Heseltine ap-

pears as a man of no great political insight, but a shrewd political operator, driven by ambition rather than idealism. Neither particularly left or right, a corporatist and fixer by instinct and practice, he could never understand Margaret Thatcher.' But he also alleged that there

was an inbuilt male-chauvinism at work, saying: "At the roots of his hostility to her is a macho streak which sees only a subservient role for women, however talented, and a resentment that a woman achieved the supreme office which he coveted and which was denied him." Balancing an essentially hostile verdict on the Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Tebbit said that in spite of bungled privatisations of the Post Office and coal, it

But Lord Tebbit took evident would be wrong to forget Mr Heseltine's successes. "His establishment of the Audit Commission, the creation of the Urban Development Corporations and his successful campaign against CND [Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament] weigh heavily in his favour."

But his overall verdict is negative. "Heseltine's laser-guided system can focus on only one target at a time," he said. "He is a supremely good one-ball juggler, but a prime minister must keep a dozen or more balls in the air - and that he could not do,"

The Tory bile later spilt over to the left of the party wher. Sir Nicholas Scott, a former minister, defended Mr Heseltine, saying Lord Tebbit had "gone over the top" and that he was longer regarded as "a scrious player in the political field".

As for Lord Tebbit's charge of dishonourable conduct in pursuit of the leadership, Sir Nicholas told Radio 4's The World at One: "I don't believe he has pursued that ambition in any sort of underhand way. He has been open. He has been articulate.

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Top-scoring universities to bail out rivals

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

England's best performing universities will be "taxed" next year, in order to bail out then less successful neighbours, higher education funding chiefs revealed yesterday.

The special measure, which is designed to help universities absorb any steep changes in funding will mean that high-flying institutions, such as Oxford and University College London, will have almost a million pounds each clawed back from their teaching and research

A total of £12m will be diverted to cushion other universities, including Exeter and Manchester, which are having to cope with funding cuts in 1997-8 compared with 1996-7. Manchester has suffered because it achieved particularly

well in previous years. The Higher Education Funding Council for England ealed the so-called "moderation" policy yesterday in its announcement of the distribution of £3.4bn in government funding for the next academic year among 209 higher educa-tion institutions and further education colleges.

Cranfield University

University College

University of York

University of Oxford

University of London

University of Sheffield

University of Bath

London School

of Economics

Imperial College London Royal Holloway.

London

Goldsmiths

HEFCE aims to protect uni-versities from the effects of a change in the formula used to calculate their funding, which has resulted in more money being channelled towards those The top-class research, to the detriment of those with a below-

average performance. However, even after they have been capped, the highflying universities are unlikely to be disappointed with their Substantial grants.
Oxford, which topped the

research league table, will get over £83m, while UCL will receive only slightly less. Overall, the hump som which has been allocated by the Government for university funding

has been frozen for the next aca demic year. The increase of 2.8 per cent in cash terms is roughly in line with inflation. However, university teaching

unions and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals warned that there was still not enough money to go round. Professor Jack Simmons, the vice-chairman of the Associa-

tion of University and College Lecturers, said the settlement effectively meant a continuation of last year's cuts, when fund-ing was slashed by 2.3 per cent in cash terms.

University of Exeter minus 0.6 Aston University minus 0.5 Queen Mary and Westfield College minus 0.3 Coventry University minus 01 University of minus 01 East Anolia University of Kent minus 01 University of Mancheste minus 01 University of Huil University of Liverpool City University increase 01

The table shows the 10 English universities with the highest percentage increase in net grant in 1997-98 compared with 1996-97 and the 10 with the greatest percentage fall or smallest increase. The list excludes colleges and institutes of higher education, and specialist schools and institutions.

How the cake is cut

. 7,7,

pointed but not surprised by this. This means that university funding will still be 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent down on what it was two years ago. Universities will continue to shed staff."

Professor Gareth Roberts. CVCP chairman, called the overall level of funding "grossly inadequate", although he praised HEFCE's decision to concentrate money excellence is highest".

ing to weather a two-year freeze in the level of tuition fees paid the Government for each student via the local education

HEFCE's chief executive, Professor Brian Fender, denied that universities would suffer unduly under the latest funding round, claiming that the latest settlement by the Government, which was an improvement on the previous year, had allowed the funding council to maintain stability by phasing in change.

The distribution revealed a mixed picture, with no clearly distinguished categories of vinners and losers. Under a new initiative being

introduced for 1997-8, former polytechnics whose research performance is just too low to attract funding will be encouraged to collaborate with other, more successful, universities to bid for a share of a £16m fund-Oxford University's vice-

chancellor, Dr Peter North, said that although Oxford welcomed its substantial grant, the need for a cap on highachieving universities indicated that the policy of rewarding excellence in research was not working fully. He said: "It points to the

need for better funding overall for higher education." Universities were pinning their hopes on Sir Ron Dearing's inquiry into higher edu-cation, which is due to report in the summer, to win extra mon-



Life and death in Dolphin Square

According to an official history of the site, Dolphin Square, a vast block of flats in Pimlico. central London, has been home to the "famous, infamous and the notorious".

حكنا من الاجل

To that list can be added the tragic, after the death of the Conservative MP Iain Mills at his flat there and the inquest verdict this week that he died from acute alcohol noisoning. Outsiders may wonder at

the revelation that the MP's death went unnoticed for two days in a block of 1,200 apartments, with around 3,000 tenants and residents, all within a short taxi ride of the House of

But for those who live in the 1930s block, the largest of its kind in Europe, the lonely fate of the MP came as no surprise. One tenant told The Indepen-dent: "It comes as no shock, you with its dolphin statue fountain Davies and the spy John Vassall.

Michael Streeter on the block of flats that has been home to the famous, infamous and notorious

can lead a very solitary, almost reclusive, life here. The corridors are very private." He added: "I only see one of my neighbours about once every four months." The former Liberal leader Sir

David Steel, a long-time tenant, and one of 50 MPs who take advantage of the Square's proximity to Parliament, is also unshocked. "It's very much a place where you keep yourself to yourself. I can quite understand how it happens that no one noticed he was missing for

a couple of days." The Square, which is run by

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in the central gardens, Keep Quiet signs and park benches. it reminds visitors of a slightly run-down council park and buildings. One almost expects to hear a brass band striking up on summer afternoons.

Part of its fame comes simply from its ability to attract the famous and influential. Apart from MPs - who include Labour's heritage spokesman, Jack Cunningham - there are numerous Lords, generals and senior civil servants who relish its location. Among the more notorious former guests are Christine Keeler, Mandy Rice-

Wear plane, with contacts



lain Mills: MP's death went unnoticed for two days

Charles de Gaulle stayed there during the last war as leader of the Free French, while many entertainers, most of the Crazy Gang, for example, have lived there.

Another attraction for resi- God bless them," he said.

dents has been the relatively low rents, especially for those who have stayed long-term. One resident told The Independent be pays £4,000 a year for a large one-bedroom flat, well below the normal market rates for Pimlico. However, he claims the old ethos of giving flats to those who worked in the Westminster area, had important jobs and were desperate for accommodation has been replaced by the a quest for higher income.

If a new tenant had my flat now it would cost them £9,500 a year. It's all about who pays

But the biggest menace, said one male resident, is the prevalence of elderly female residents who monopolise the garden

"If you say hello to them, that's it, you'll never get away.

s scorn on the fixer

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NEIGHBOURS BUT

IRA shave and daub girl, 16 The attack on the teenager I didn't know where they were was reminiscent of the tarring taking me to, I thought they

David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

A 16-year-old Northern Ireland girl yesterday recounted a terrifying experience, appar-ently at the hands of the IRA, in which up to five men punched her, hacked off her hair and poured paint over her. The incident, in Armagh city,

was the latest example of the "punishment attacks" which both republican and loyalist groups carry out.

The attack happened as an

attempted mortar attack on security force patrols in the Falls Road area of Belfast was abort-

ed by the IRA. The alert was raised when a telephone caller. using a recognised IRA codeword warned that a device had been left near Andersonstown RUC station. After the device was made

safe the RUC's west Belfast commander, Ian Williamson, said: "I am angry that a relatively small number of people from Sinn Fein/IRA seem de-

termined to prosecute what can only described as a pathet-ic, grubby, but lethal little war." Meanwhile, last night the terrorist group claimed responsibility for the murder of the soldier Stephen Restorick.

ban on funding treatment with

an expensive blood-clotting

first case of its kind, the boys

were taking action against three

health authorities after they

decided that they would no

In what was believed to be the

and feathering incidents in the early days of the troubles, when girls and women who associated with soldiers were branded "soldier dolls" by the IRA.

The teenager, Judith Boylan, sterday spoke of her ordeal in a BBC interview. She said: "It was my first night working in a taxi office. I was sitting there with my sister and two masked men came running in, pulled the counter away, grabbed me by the hair, threw me off the chair and trailed me out by the leg and hair into a taxi they had stolen. "I thought I was going to die. round me."

The judge said he could see

"no useful purpose" in granting the families permission to challenge the decisions by

South Lancashire, East Lan-

cashire, and Bury and Rochdale

taking me to, I thought they were just going to beat me and leave me somewhere. They covered my nose and mouth and put my head down so I couldn't see. I asked why they were doing it to me: they didn't answer me, they told me to shut up, hit me in the face and head and turned my head away.

"They got me out and one of them had me by the arms. The other man came back with paint and rope and tied my arms to a pole. One man took scissors out and started cutting my hair, then started throwing paint

Ann Alexander, a solicitor

representing one of the families

said after the hearing: "We have lost the battle but won the

war. The judge refused us leave

to proceed to judicial review but

Families lose haemophilia battle

Gienda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

Four haemophiliac boys yes-terday lost their fight in the High Court to try to force health authorities to fund treatment which is generally considered

most effective by doctors.

The judge, Mr Justice Jowitt, rejected claims by the families of the boys that three North West health authorities had unlawfully imposed a blanket

Blue Films

By Geoffrey Holloway

angling their currots, their bossy boobs, twidding francis These aficionados so dramatically at it -

Why do they never show the rest of it -

post-triumphant coasting its quiet level

stifting the weight to propped elbows,

ne NE2 3LA, price £7.99.

Never the mindful details that make love -

sorting the duvet so that feet aren't cold, doodling filigree edges, squeezing a sleepy thigh, giving the doverailed miracle its ark?

Born in 1918, Geoffrey Holloway served as a parachustist in the D-Day landings and later worked as a psychiatric social worker in the Lake District. He has published 11 collections, at Flambard has now issued And Why Not?, his selected posits 1972-94 (from which Blue Films comes). It is available from the December of Months and Representations.

ambard Press, 4 Mitchell Avenue, Jesmond, Newcastle upon

twidding frantic nipples, wiping tongue on tongue -these topsy-uavy bareback traves

quiting the bedsprings, scalping each other's moans from climax to head-squirmed suffocating climax where do they live, apart from this?

with surrendered skis, no more plying to impress?

DAILY POEM

longer be treated with a purer, artificial form of the clotting parents would only have an arguable case if they could show agent Factor VIII, but a cheaper plasma-derived version which the authorities had failed to concarries a higher risk of viral sider whether their children had "special needs".

health authorities. He said the made it quite clear that he acauthorities were entitled to cepts that families can go along adopt certain policies - and the to the health authorities and express individual grounds which would justify having this treatment. If they can justify that their case is special then the health au-

MPs' motion calls for cloning inquiry

Colin Brown and Charles Arthur

A cross-party group of 40 MPs last night tabled a Commons motion calling for an investiga tion into cloning to be carried out following international alarm at the discovery of the technique in Britain.

The group, led by Bill Cash, a senior Tory backbench MP, includes former ministers, Labour MPs and Liberal Democrats. The the motion calls for an ad hoc committee of MPs to carry out the investigation.

"A inquiry is needed in the interests of our constituents and the nation as a whole. It is crystal clear that what is being done is being monitored by scientists. They are not elected and these questions are so important that

ly investigated by lay people, with the facts brought out on the table, not kept behind closed doors," Mr Cash said.

The possibility of the cloning of humans topped the agenda at the first meeting yesterday of the Human Genetics Advisory Commission: But the nine members decided only to check that existing UK laws are adequate to prevent it happening here.

Cloning of human embryos by nuclear transfer - the technique used to produce Dolly the sheep - is already expressly forbidden by the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act. Sir Colin Campbell, the com-

mission's chairman, said "There is no doubt that genetics will continue to be a major issue." Leading article, page 17

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news

Medical cuts could stymie defence plan

Defence Correspondent

Government cuts to medical support for the British Armed Forces could frustrate current plans for the military.

Since 1990, the number of medical support employees has fallen from 9,461 to 6,946, and further cuts are planned.

The all-party House of Commons Defence Select Committee said in a report published yesterday that lack of military medies could destroy the rea-soning behind the Front-Line First Defence Costs Study, leaving defence forces paralysed by lack of back up.

Two weeks ago, the MoD published the first British Defence Doctrine, and last week announced plans to reinforce quick-reaction forces as part of the shift in military planning

'expeditionary" strategy.

But the committee report said unless the plans to reduce medical support were reversed, the number of British troops sent to any crisis situation would be limited by the number of medics available to tend the casualties.

The report was uncompro-nising. "We fear that the major reductions in the defence medical services will reduce the ability of the UK to generate military medical support for the front line in the event of serious hostilities short of all-out war," it said. And, in a bitter attack on the Government it goes on: "The committee can see no better example of the Defence

Costs Study failing to enhance front-line capability." The report adds: "The Defence Medical Services are not sufficient to provide proper sup-

from a "continental" to an port to the front line in all re- Nicholas Soames, the armed alistic scenarios and show little forces minister, denies. prospect of being able to do so in the future." Therefore, "a choice would have to be made between sending troops without proper medical support or only sending the limited number of

troops who could be supported". Bruce George, a Labour member of the committee, said: This is one of the most devastating reports ever produced by the committee. It highlights the near-destruction of our medical services, all in the name of alleged 'efficiency'." Mr George linked the failure of a division within the Surgeon-General's area in the MoD to provide accurate information about the use of organophosphate pesticides in the Gulf War with the lack of spending and low morale in the Defence

The report noted that "the prime purpose of the Defence Medical Services is to train medical staff for war". Peacetime would not provide enough cases to keep doctors and nurses occupied. However, leading military thinkers believe the distinction between "wartime" and "peacetime" is increasingly meaningless in a world where one third of the British Army is on active service, preparing to

go or recovering.
"We conclude that ... the Defence Medical Services are not sufficient to provide proper support to the front line in all realistic planning scenarios and little prospect of being able to do so in the future.

Defence Comminee. Third report, Defence Medical Services. Medical Services, a charge



Sonja's chilly show gets a warm welcome in new fashion climate

Tamsin Blanchard

When Sonja Nuttall showed her first collection on the London catwalks in 1993, she was hailed as one of a new generation of rising stars.

Martin's graduate from Liver-pool had built up stockists silver survival blanket, had givincluding Pellicano, Jones, Harvey Nichols and Liberty. Business appeared to be going well. although as a small designer, she suffered the usual problems of to her husiness, hiring out her cash flow, manufacturing hitches and unreliable delivery.

After her third collection in March 1995, she decided to take a break from the catwalk, a risky move in an industry that is famously fickle and moves on to the next big thing as soon as there is a gap on the rails.

But vesterday morning, Nuttall stepped out once again, and showed her new collection in an icy loading hay, at Schridges on

Oxford Street in London. "I last slept 24 hours ago." she said after the show which was given a warm reception by press and, more importantly, buyers and

Spencer. Clinton Silver, chairman of the After just two years, the St British Fashion Council, who watched the show wrapped in a en a personal donation to support the 32-year-old designer.

Since her last collection, Nuttall has been building a new side services as a consultant. The bulk of her time has been spent working with the Irish company Peterson, purveyors of handcrafted tobacco pipes. It is an unlikely combination, but Nuttall developed a line of luxurious travel boxes, ties, gentlemen's smoking jackets and pyjamas. She also kept up deliveries of capsule collections for the Japan-

ese store Iwaya.

On top of that, she teaches

two days a week at Central St Martin's. The 20-minute catwalk show

yesterday also served as a showcase to prospective clients who might be interested in tapping Nuttall's talents to develop their own products. Increasingly, wise designers are linking up with mass-market retailers, putting an end to the days when the high street merely copied catwalk designs. Now they use designer expertise first-hand, Marks & Spencer already works with Tanya Same from Ghost and the bag designer Orla Kiely on accessories, while Burton has deals with designers including Clements Ribeiro for Dorothy Perkins, Jasper Conran, Philip Treacy, and Lulu Guinness for Debenhams, Paul Frith consults for BhS. A consultancy can be

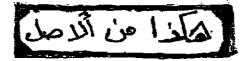
worth up to £60,000. two full-time members of staff. and to put together her most ac-

complished, focused collection to date - a commercial hit.

Those who saw the show were impressed and there was talk of a "young Jil Sander" among excited huyers. She may still be a young label, but the clothes classic tailored masculine suits. chalk-stripe coats, luxurious knitwear, and simple jersev dresses - were modern classics: desirable, wearable, flattering and devoid of gimmicks.

Nuttall has a sense of what is commercial and what constitutes strong design. Her longterm plan to develop consultancy work alongside her own label is the way forward for any sensible young British designer.

"My ideal situation would be to have my own collection as well as two consultancies. she said. Thank God for backers and investors, but it's never Nuttall's own consultancy easy." She may still have a work has allowed her to employ struggle on her hands, but this time, Sonja Nuttall's future looks secure.



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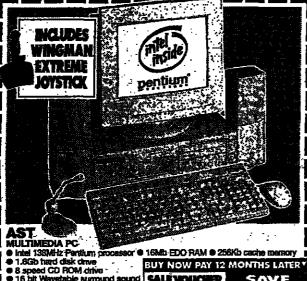
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Labour tells parents: read to your children

Education Editor

Parents should read with their children for 20 minutes each night. Labour said yesterday.

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said that a story before bedtime could lead to educational success as well as being a special moment for parents and children.

A Labour government would, he said, include the advice in national guidance on homework for all 7- to 11-year-olds as part of a reading revolution.

And it would encourage parents of children as young as eight onths to share books and nursery rhymes with them. The proposal for national

guidance on parental reading is

put forward in a report from the

party's literacy task force, published yesterday. Labour said that it will accept

standard in reading by 2001 and that all should do so after 10 years. Just 400 out of 20,000 primary schools reach the target at present.
"Very often the best home-

work is simply for the parent or someone clse from home spending 20 minutes each day reading with the child or hearing him or her read," Mr Blunkett said. He quoted the Bookstart project in Birmingham in which health visitors give a book-pack

to mothers at the child's eightmonth hearing test. The pack includes a book, poster, rhyme card, library card and information on local libraries. Head teachers' leaders at the conference to launch the report in London were sceptical both

about the literacy targets and the costings laid down in the report. Professor Michael Barber, head of the Literacy Task Force

says the retraining of all primary teachers to teach reading using methods proved to be success ful would cost £20m for each of four years and could be redirected from existing budgets.

There would be national recommendations to teachers on how to teach reading.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, welcomed the report as "inspirational" but added: "We think it's wholly unrealistic to believe that existing budgets can take the strain. Labour will have to put more

money into training."

Mr Hart queried whether the target of 100 per cent of 11-yearolds reaching the expected lev-el in reading was achievable. "I don't think even 95 per cent is achievable, though 80 per cent by 2001 is tough but achievable." However, the report points to

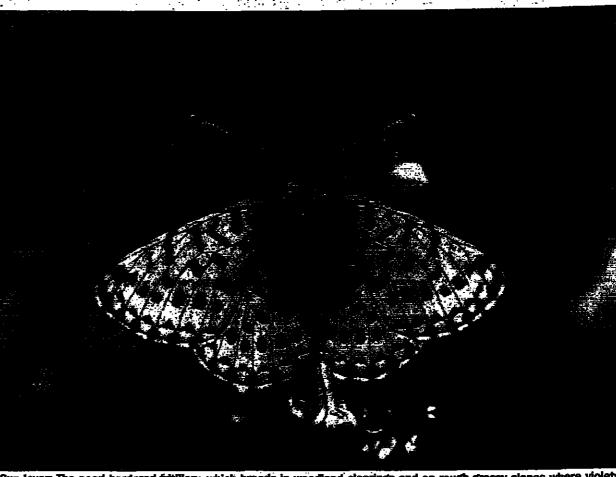
literacy programmes in the

that 80 per cent of all 11-year- which produced the report, United States and in Australia olds should reach the expected says the retraining of all primary which have succeeded with nearly all children. From 1999 there will be on-the-spot checks by inspectors to ensure that the scheme is working properly.

The report foreshadows a much slimmer national curriculum with a new emphasis on the basics including a literacy hour every day in all primary schools. It suggests that teachers should have greater discretion in other subjects when the curriculum is revised in 2000.

Mr Blunkett said: "It is a disgrace that over the last 18 years the Tories have failed to put in place a strategic plan to raise literacy standards Gillian Shephard, the Secre-

tary of State for Education, pointed to government initiatives on teacher training and literacy. She said: "The work is all being done through Conservative policies which Labour has opposed."



Sun-lover: The pearl-bordered fritillary, which breeds in woodland clearings and on rough grassy slopes where violet are plentiful, is in drastic decline and, without support, could disappear from most regions within 25 years

ICI becomes the butterflies' friend

Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

The chemicals giant ICI yes-terday became the first corpo-rate sponsor of two highly endangered British butterfly species under an initiative to resone 116 threatened native plant and animal species.

The scheme was launched last year as a joint effort between the Government and the country's leading wildlife char- in farming practices. ities. Signing up commercial "champions" who will provide money to fund rescue plans for individual species is taking onger than had been hoped.

ICI has chosen to back the arge blue butterfly and the pearl-bordered fritillary with £110,000 spread over two years. The money will pay for work in the field by Butterfly Conser-vation, a charity.

The large blue is a pretty but-

terfly with a savage life-cycle. Its caterpillars mimic the grubs of one species of red ant, which is fooled into carrying the butterfly larvae into its nest.

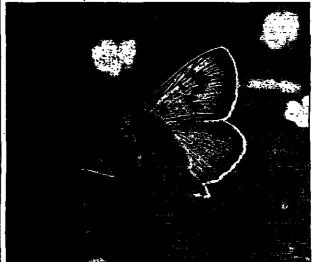
Once inside the caterpillar eats all the soft, small ant grubs. using large jaws which burst Markyate, Herts AL3 8QP for them open. Then, having wiped £6.50, of which £1 goes to WWF.

out most or all of the nest's inhabitants, it turns into a chrysalis. The adult butterfly only lives for a few days, during which the females mate and lay their eggs on thyme plants.

Never common in Britain, the large blue declined rapidly during this century and by 1979 had become extinct here. This was because populations of the red ant on which it depends on were also declining, due to changes

But conservationists now know how to manage land in a way which boosts the ant's population. Like the sun-loving pearl-bordered fritillary, it needs plenty of warmth and it finds this on heavily grazed, south-facing been successfully reintroduced at a few secret locations in the West Country, and the rescue plan aims to build up its population and the number of colonies.

■ The Independent and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) have published an illustrated paperback on Britain's endangered wildlife and the 116 rescue plans. Going, Going, Gone is available from PO Box 550,



Blood thirsty: The large blue, whose delicate appearance belies its larval stage, has been reintroduced to Britain

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Results of Voting on Conversion Resolutions

The following are the results of the voting on the Investing Members' Special Resolution and the Borrowing Members' Resolution at the Special General Meeting of the Society held on 24th February 1997 at the Sheffield Arena, as reported by the Scrutineers, KPMG.

Investing Members' Special Resolution to transfer the whole of the business of Halifax Building Society to Halifax ple in accordance with the terms of the Transfer Agreement dated 20th December 1996 (and which took effect on 1st January 1997). 5.260,694

5,152,776

107,918

a) 1. Total number of eligible votes cast 2. In favour of the Special Resolution 3. Against the Special Resolution

4. 97.9% of the eligible votes cast were cast in favour of the Special Resolution b) 1. Total number of investing members entitled

to vote on the Special Resolution 2. 74.1% of all the investing members who were entitled to vote voted for the Special Resolution

Borrowing Members' Resolution to transfer the whole of the usiness of Halifax Building Society to Halifax plc in accordance with the terms of the Transfer Agreement dated 20th December 1996 (and which took effect on 1st January 1997).

a) 1. Total number of eligible votes cast 2. In favour of the Borrowing

Members' Resolution Against the Borrowing Members' Resolution 4. 97.2% of the eligible votes cast were cast in

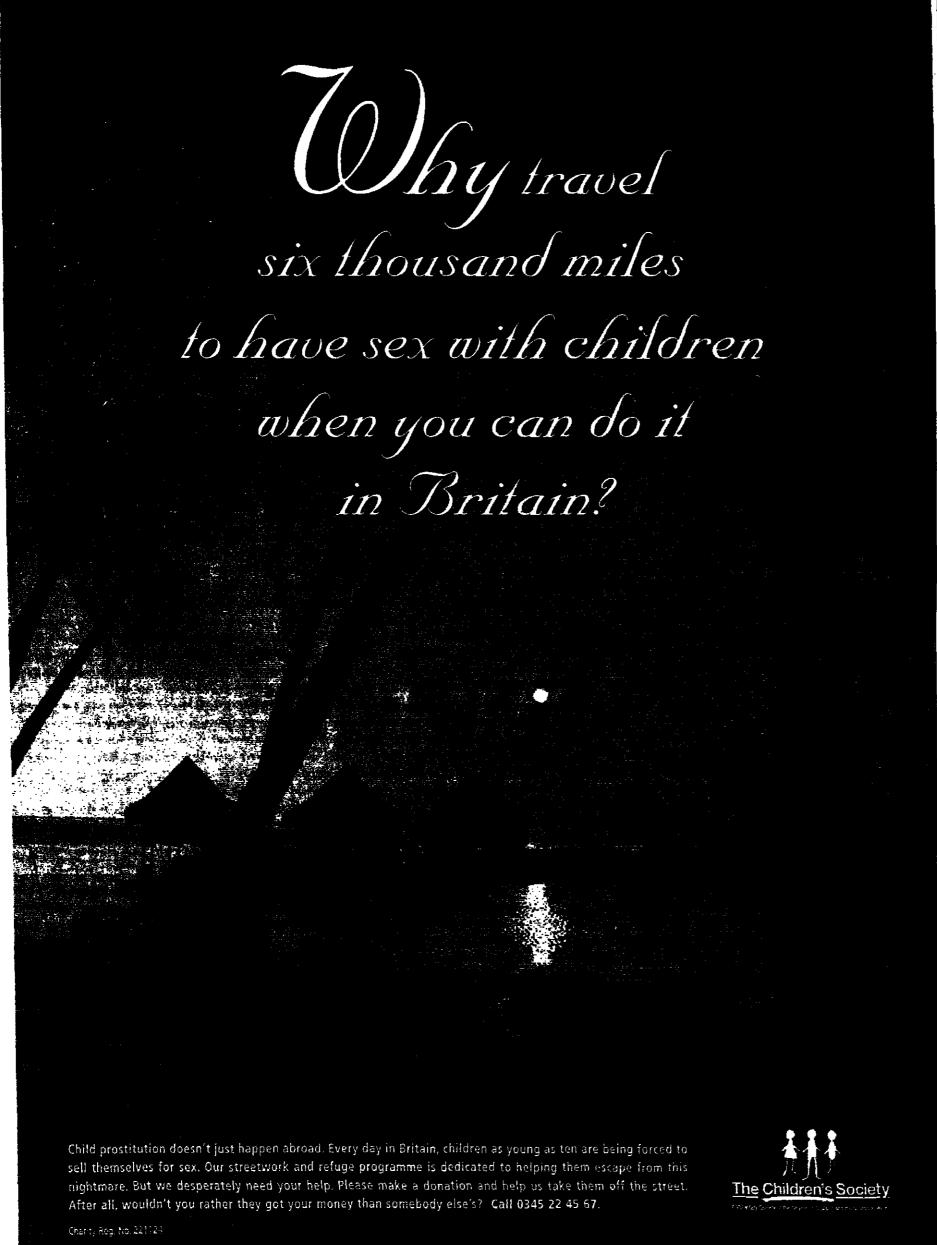
favour of the Borrowing Members' Resolution b) I. Total number of borrowing members entitled to

vote on the Borrowing Members: Resolution 2,294,358 2. 66.1% of all the borrowing members who were entitled to vote voted for the Borrowing Members' Resolution

Halifax Building Society has now applied to the Building Societies Commission for confirmation of the transfer of its business to Halifax plc.



HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY, TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX, WEST YORKSHIRE HX1, 2RG,



Yeltsin criticised over penal conditions

As he attempts another comeback after eight months of illness, Boris Yeltsin has made clear he is against any changes . to the 1993 Russian constitution, the document which enshrines

his spectacular powers of office. He believes his country is not ready for such momentous moves as it muddles its way of the Russian Federation, painfully and perilously towards says the Helsinki group, at

Article 22 states that "no one may be subject to torture, violence, or any other harsh or humiliating treatment or punishment." A fine enough principle, but one which many of the multitude - more than one million people - languishing in Russia's prisons would regard

After a two-month investigation, a presidential human rights commission has produced a report which cites a litany of appalling malpractices in the penal system, including beatings and torture.

Among the victims are the occupants of filthy and overcrowded remand prisons, who can - by a decree passed by Mr Yeltsin in 1994 - be held for 30 days without charge. Some of those charged then await trial for up to five years, says the commission, an advisory body.

The claims will add to mounting concern over Russia"s failure to comply with its commitments to the Council of Europe, which it joined exactly a year ago. To mark the anniversary, Human Rights Watch/ Helsinki will today unveil a review of Russia's performance as a new council member which states that Russia "has made little progress in fulfilling its new obligations and ... in some cas-

It cites a long list of violations. including attacks on citizens in Chechnya, executions which continued until last August, and a general failure to address "long-standing abuses, such as appalling and even "tortuous" prison conditions, and police

"Responsibility for human rights violations lies squarely on the shoulders of the government says the Helsinki group, al a free-market system and though it expresses "concern" democracy. So why, his critics that the Council of Europe has ask, does he flout it? fluence" to secure human rights improvements in Russia, and offered Moscow membership without extracting pledges that it would clean up its act.

If its findings on the Russian penal system are a guide, the presidential human rights commission would agree. It says inmates are regularly beaten, tortured, and have confessions forced out of them by guards.

The commission underscored its findings with a statement yesterday saying "neither domestic nor international standards" of holding people under investiwith. This also called on the Russian lower house of parliament, the Duma, to amnesty pension-age convicts, women with children, and minors.

Russian has by far the highest percentage of detainees in Europe, with 694 people in jail for every 100,000 citizens nearly seven times the rate in Britain (99). By contrast, the Ukraine has 392, Spain 122 and Germany 81.

Whether this groundswell of concern will produce any results is unclear. Russia, angered by Nato expansion, is in no mood to be lectured by the West, over its failure to comply with the Council of Europe commitments, whether it be through



In reflective mood: Vuk Draskovic, one of the trolka of Serb opposition leaders, taking a break during their visit to Britain

Serb opposition in talks with Rifkind

They came, they met the minister, and they went home again. With that, the troika of Serbian opposition leaders could feel more or less satisfied.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, gave little concrete support dur-ing the Serbs' two-day trip to the United Kingdom. But the very fact that the British government had invited the three to London represented progress.

Until a few months ago, Britain was still bizarrely insisting that Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, was "a partner for peace" in the Balkans, Now, that has changed. Already, Serbian opposition leaders have been invited to meet the foreign ministers of Italy, France and Germany in recent weeks. Now, it is Britain's turn. As Mr Rifkind said: "The crucial requirement is that abuses in prisons or elsewhere. Serbia should be able to enjoy the

man rights, and the same liberty as the rest of Europe is now able to enjoy."

The troika remains a motley crowd -Vuk Draskovic, with his prophet's beard and declared support for restoring the monarchy; Zoran Djindjic, now suave-ly Western despite his past declarations of solidarity with Radovan Karadzic and the Bosnian Serbs; and the diminutive Vesna Pesic, whose opposition to nationalism has remained unswerving. They and their coalition Zajedno (Together) represent the different aspects

of the opposition to Mr Miloscvic today. As with other broad-based opposition movements elsewhere in Eastern Europe in recent years, differences between the three may prove to be less important, for the moment at least, than a shared understanding of the need to move Serbia out of the authoritarian rut in which it

Mr Djindjic - newly-appointed may-or of Belgrade, following the regime's grudging acceptance of the opposition's electoral victory last November - is confident that Mr Milosevic will be out of office "by the end of the year". In Mr Djindjie's view, the street protests have now taken on a life of their own. "I'm

sure we'll see more demonstrations this

summer - not organised by ourselves." Ms Pesic argued that external pressure, followed by external aid when the democrats are in a stronger position, are crucial. She was critical of the recent cosy relationship between leading British players - including former Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who has played an advisory business role - and the Serbian government. "Milosevic can't do things in secret with Mr. Hurd or anybody else-Milosevic was "working his own business."

interests - and we have to stop that".

Mr Djindjic said: "It's extremely important for us that other governments see Milosevic as an obstacle to democratisation ... We must to convince governments that free media are an essential precondition for the electoral

Many in the opposition fear that the

ancial pressure which Mr Milosevic is still able to exert on the city council Belgrade and other cities will mean that the opposition's power will remain something of a mirage, even when election victories have been recognised. But Ms Pesic argued that even the half-victories have been important, in forcing Mr Milosevic on to the defensive.

A meeting was requested with Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary. But he had had "a very had week", and did - this must be discussed," she said. Mr - not have time. There was a meeting with Clare Short, the shadow overseas development minister, instead.

Gaullists close ranks over detective

John Lichfield Paris

The head of detectives in the Paris police is no longer a detective. The highest French appeal court yesterday suspended Olivier Foll for six months for refusing to obey a judge's re-quest to search the home of the city's mayor.

But the French interior minister - who belongs to the same party as the mayor, and the police chief and President Jacques Chirac - yesterday insisted that Mr Foll would continue as head of detectives, even if he was no longer a detective.

The tangled affair marks a further stage in the politically embarrassing investigation of the role of the Mayor of Paris. Jean Tiberi, in the alleged embezzlement of funds from the city's welfare housing budget. Mr Tiberi has long been a close associate of President Chirac, who was his predecessor as mayor of Paris.

Last June an investigating magistrate, Eric Halphen, asket the Paris "police judicione" - the detective branch - to assist him in the search of the mayor's home. Mr Foll, a member of President Chirac's neo-Gaullist RPR party, refused. The magistrate took legal action. A lower court agreed that Mr Foll had failed in his duties as a police officer". Mr Foll appealed but his case was rejected yesterday by the

appeal court.
The Socialist Party, the association of magistrates and the federation of police unions all called yesterday for Mr Foll's dismissal. The interior minister, Jean-Louis Debre, also a member of the RPR, said he saw no reason why Mr Foll should not stay in his job during his sus-

The affair is politically embarrassing for President Chirac one month after he launched a committee of inquiry into political interference in the justice system. Mr Tiberi was his close associate, and latterly his deputy. at the Paris town hall for many years. The mayor has been linked with the investigation of alleged "false billing" in the city's bud-get for subsidised housing.

Netanyahu accused over Jerusalem homes pledge

Jerusalem — A promise by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, that the building of a new Jewish settlement at Har Homa in Jerusalem will be matched by the construction of 3,015 houses for Palestinians in the city was denounced by human rights groups yesterday as highly misleading, if not a

direct lie. "It is disinformation," said Danny Seidemann, a civil rights lawyer contesting the Har Homa project.

"Four times the government has promised more building permits for Palestinians in Jerusalem as a quid pro quo for the building of a settlement. 'In 1980, some 18,000 per-

mits were pledged, but 17 years

later we have yet to see a sin-

In a bid to placate critics of his plan to build 6.500 apartments for Jews at Har Homa be-Jerusalem Bethlehem on land captured by Israel in 1967. Mr Netanyahu said the government had allo-cated \$42m (£26m) for housing for Palestinians in 10 East

the next three years. Since 1967, Palestinians in the city have been able to build only 9,000 apartments, compared to 64,000 built for Jews - 39,000 of which are on expropriated

Jerusalem neighborhoods over

In reality Mr Netanyahu. wishing to appear even-handed to an international audience. has recycled an existing plan to huild sewers, water pipes and roads in Palestinian areas in

Once this is done, Palestinians will be able to apply for the discourage confrontation

CATEGORY

Match 6 (Jackpot)

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TOTALS

Human rights groups say PM is guilty of disinformation, writes Patrick Cockburn

3,015 building permits to build houses privately. left by most of the media," wrote the daily Haaniz vesterday, "there has been no decision to directly build residential units for Arabs; but only to in-

vest in infrastructure." ratio of 72 per cent Jews and 28

Palestinians allege that this has been done through restricting their access to housing and by gerrymandering the mu-nicipal boundaries of the city to exclude Palestinian towns and



Yasser Arafat: Wants to

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Jerusalem as a whole, the Pales-"Contrary to the impression

israeli policy is to maintain a per cent Palestinians in the 600,000 population of Jeru-

> It is against the letter of guarantee 9

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In the metropolitan area of

tinian population is about 55 per cent of the total. Diplomats in Jerusalem say they are also concerned that the Israeli Interior Ministry is casting doubts on the validity of the Jerusalem residency permits of 120,000 out of 170,000 Pales-

tinians in the city. Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, reacted cautiously vesterday to the Har Homa decision, probably because he wants to discourage any confrontation as he prepares to go to Washington to see President Clinton next week.

Visiting the West Bank town

of Nablus yesterday, he said: 6 This is a big breaching to what had been agreed upon.

United Nations resolutions and the American

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£203,951

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THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

"This is a big breaching to what had been agreed upon and it is against the United Nations resolutions and also against the

American letter of guarantee. Asked if big protests were planned Salah al-Tamaari, a member of the Palestinian Council co-ordinating protests against Har Homa, said: "We don't want to consume the energies of our people all at once. Things will accumulate. Arafat always responds to the

mood of the people." He said the settlement would cut off Palestinians in Jerusalem from those outside, and cut the West Bank in two.

Abroad, Israel has been criticised throughout the world, but probably no more strongly than Mr Netanyahu expected. At the same time there is little doubt that he would have

preferred not to have started,

under pressure from the right, such a high-profile project which focuses international attention on Jerusalem. In return for Mr Arafat limiting his reaction to rhetoric. Mr Netanyahu is reported to have agreed to a more substantial Israeli redeployment on the West Bank next month

under the Hebron agreement than had originally been planned. There are signs that Mr Arafat does not want a confrontation. At the village of Hisma, to the north of Jerusalem, where a Palestinian man was shot dead by an Israeli undercover squad on Tuesday. the Palestinian Preventive Security Service co-operated with Israeli forces in imposing a

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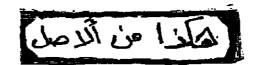


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US sets Mexico and Colombia a tough drugs test

Latin America Correspondent

Like nail-biting students awaiting their grades, the govern-ments of Mexico and Colombia are awaiting word from "headmaster" - the United States this weekend on whether they've

passed the test or been bad boys. President Bill Clinton is due to announce, by tomorrow, whether or not to "certify" the two nations as cooperating against narcotics production and trafficking. At stake are US aid, loans, future investments. tourism potential and, not least, simple national pride.

The certification process, un-der which the President is required by law to report to Congress on more than 30 drug-producing or transit coun-

ing criticism this year, not only from the targeted countries but within the US itself.

Mexico calls it "interventionist", Colombia bills it "imperialist". A New York Times editorial this week said it should be abolished and that the US should clean up its own backyard by combating drug con-sumption. Even US anti-drugs tsar General Barry McCaffrey has questioned its usefulness.

The general has reason to be confused. His Mexican counterpart, whom he recently praised as exemplary, was jailed last week for his alleged links with a leading drug cartel. US intelligence agents are now extremely concerned as to how much information General Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo may have

passed on to the druglords. Latin American analysts warn that the certification policy is fanning a new anti-Americanism in the region and could lead to strained relations - particularly between neighbours Mexico and the US - and even

to a new anti-American bloc. Such sentiment could complicate Mr Clinton's plans to create a pan-American free trade zone by the year 2005 - a key reason for his upcoming Latin American tour, including Mexico, in April and May.

Colombian MPs are preparing a Bill that would allow reprisals against US interests if the country is "decertified" for the second straight year. The Colombian government has flooded the US media with a



against drug trafficking but despite these efforts, cocaine production was said to have gone up by 30 per cent last year, according to US officials. Last year, Mr Clinton "de-

Nigeria, Iran, Syria and Colombia, where President Ernesto Samper narrowly escaped impeachment on charges he took election campaign funds from the Cali cocaine cartel. This campaign listing its efforts certified" Afghanistan, Burma, year, for the first time, Mexico

could be added to the list, though with a "national interests waiver" that would make the move largely symbolic, US reprimanded but with the waiver that it would not be in the US

national interests to impose economic sanctions. Jamaica and Belize could also be downgraded this year after an

> inana and cocaine. In addition to the arrest of its anti-drugs chief, Mexico has been shaken this month by allegations that the governors of two states, as well as former President Carlos Salinas's father, were linked to drug traf-

upsurge in the transit of mari-

fickers. All deny the charges. Last year's "decertification" of Colombia delayed US aid and made it difficult for the country to attract new loans. This year, Mr Clinton may rec-ommend added sanctions, such as refusing landing rights to Colombian aircraft, rescinding preferential tariffs on Colompian coffee and submitting Colombian citizens to onerous searches at US airports. Colomoia, of course, would be likely

Chile gets the cold shoulder in Nafta bid

Rupert Cornwell
Washington

Chile's President Eduardo Frei vesterday took his case directy to the US Congress in a new but apparently unsuccessful attempt to break the logjam over his country's bid to become the fourth member of Nafta, the North American Free Trade Agreement that links the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Addressing a joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives. Mr Frei urged his audience to "leave fears and dis-trust behind," and remove the barriers to free trade throughout the Americas. But reaction to his 30-minute speech was largely sceptical, leaving little doubt that opposition to expanded free trade in the Western hemisphere is, if anything,

Though the Clinton Administration backs Chile, its admission is being stymied by opposition from both left and right. Led by the labour unions, critics insist that any enlargement be accompanied by tough rules. They also point to studies purporting to prove that Mexico's presence in Nafta has cost the US 600,000 jobs since 1994, the year Mr Clinton first invited Chile to join.

Most Republicans and American businessmen however argue precisely the opposite -- that neotiation of environmental and labour safeguards will only slow up the process, allowing other countries to steal a march in one of the most attractive Latin

Hunt for Nazi loot in vaults fizzles out

Initial investigations by Swiss banks have shown Holocaust survivors and their families may gain less than they hoped from a trawi of dormant accounts which Jewish organisations believe contain great wealth.

As the secretive banking community made an unparalleled attempt at openness this week, it emerged that a new round of inquiries has found only three families affected by the Holocaust with a rightful

Hanspeter Hand, the Swiss banking ombudsman, said more than 800 cases have been examined in the last year, producing 11 successful claims on accounts which had been untouched for at least 10 years.

But although the most recent investigations by banks found 40m Swiss francs (£17m) remain in more than 770 accounts dating from before 1945, only SFr11,000 (£4,700) belonged to the three Holocaust families.

Jewish organisations have reported many cases where families have been refused ownership of assets, because the Holocaust wined out records of account numbers, or because they have no death certificates for relatives who died in concentration camps.

The dispute last year prompted the banks to establish an "independent committee of eminent persons", chaired by Dr Paul Volcker, formerly head of America's Federal Reserve.

Searches in 1962 concentrated on names which "sounded" Jewish, according to a rabbi em-ployed by the banks. They discovered SFrom. But only about per cent of banks responded to appeals for information and most of the 7,000 claimants at the time were unsuccessful.

This week, Dr Georg Krayer, president of the Swiss Bankers' Association, used its annual press conference to cmphasise that everything possible was now being done. "If it is no longer possible to establish the identity of the legal owner, but there is a possibility that he may have been a Shoa victim, the assets will be transferred to an appropriate charitable organisation," he said.

Three international firms of accountants have been employed in the scarch. At least one bank says it has even interviewed former employers

Dr Krayer said Swiss banks had failed to appreciate the emotions surrounding the ac-counts. "Maybe ... 100 francs in the eyes of a booming community was not a big amount [but] it was maybe a very big amount for the ones that claimed it."

Privately, some bankers say they are now waiting for the Vol-cker committee to explain what they have consistently argued that Switzerland is not hiding millions of francs. "It is not worth us repeating that, because [soon] we will have the information through Volcker," one senior banker said.

However, one of the world's most secretive banking systems cannot easily shake off the

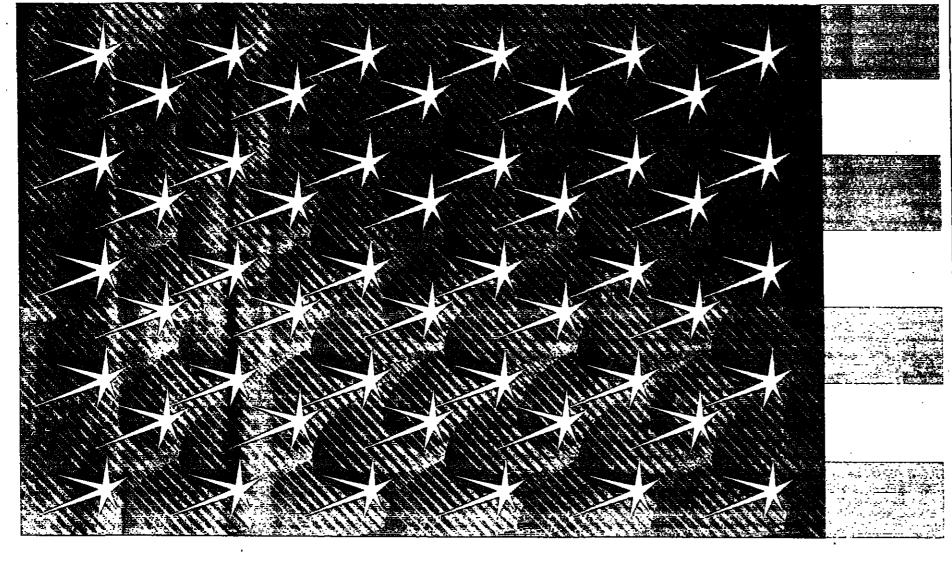
6 A hundred francs was a big amount. perhaps, for the ones that claimed it 9

suspicion that it has been not al-ways honest. The sacking of Christoph Melli, a night watchman who rescued Holocaust-era documents from being shredded by the United Bank of Switzerland (UBS), cast doubt on the

banks' vaunted "transparency". There have been claims that some banks have simply absorbed the smaller funds. And some believe many families will never trace their funds because they were deposited in the

names of lawyers or friends.
On the separate matter of the gold which the Reichsbank traded through the Swiss National Bank, Jean-Pierre Roth, vice chairman of SNB's governing board, said it has no German gold in its vaults. It was used during the war to buy raw materials for Switzerland, he said.

The Swiss government and agencies led by the World Jewish Congress this week reached agreement on setting up a foun-dation for Holocaust victims and their heirs, opened with a SFr100m donation from the country's biggest bank.



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Chile gets the cold the cold shoulder in of end to Zaire chaos Nafta bid of end to Zaire chaos The cold shoulder in the cold should s

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ly revealing that the warring ides were poised for their first face-to-face meeting, became the first head of state to make a public appearance with Laurent-Desire Kabila, the leader of the Zairean rebels. In only five months, Mr Kabila has captured one-eighth of Zaire. His campaign threatens Though the Clinton Ade not only to smash his own giant country into pieces but to spill over the borders of Zaire's nine neighbours, resulting in re-Yesterday it was the turn of Honore Ngbanda, nephew, en-voy and chief security adviser to ch ironmental and labouring the ailing Zairean dictator,

Johannesburg

ending the war in Zaire, Pres-

ident Nelson Mandela was yes-

terday at the centre of the stage

in talks which have recovered

enough to offer the first glim-

On Wednesday, Mr. Man-dela, who caused diplomatic

emparrassment by premature-

meet the South African President and pose with him for the Only a week after almost torcameras afterwards. pedoing negotiations aimed at

Mr Mandela revealed that the South African government had been in contact with President Mobutu, and that Zaire appreciated that only by nego-tiating with Mr Kabila could peace be achieved. mer of hope for peace in the

Despite Zaire's official line that there will be no negotiations until foreign troops have left its soil. Mr Ngbanda admitted conditions for face-toface talks were being discussed. So, those involved in the

talks are scant with details. "The discussion have taken quite an advanced form," a chastened Mr Mandela said yesterday. "It is absolutely necessary if this process is going to go forward that there should be confidentiality."

The new South African initiative shows how much has changed since the Rwandanbacked rebellion began. At the start, Mr Kabila was dismissed as a puppet of Rwanda. The rebellion achieved what the UN

war criminals were being fed at international expense.

Up until a few weeks ago Western diplomats were still rubbishing Mr Kabila. But since then his forces have quashed Zaire's counter-offensive. His joint appearance with Mr Mandela seemed to transform him into a political power player.

International credibility

comes in the wake of growing popular support at home. Beiore war broke out, few Zaire-ans had heard of Mr Kabila. Now he carries the hopes of a population desparate for an and to the Mobutu dictatorship. The country's largest opposition party announced last week it was attempting to join forces with the rebels.

If Mr Kabila has been reinvented this week so has Mr Mandela. Since he won South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994 the President has shunned the mantle of a continental superpower. This week Mr Mandela is at the centre of

But everything may not be as it seems. The negotiations may

in the background is a team from the US.

As the talks continue, the war Zaire appears to be escalating. The question is whether ei-ther side has more to lose by continuing to fight than by negotiating. The government's rcenary-led counter offensive has floundered. In the eastern Zairean city of Kindu, yesterday the rebels seemed once again to be walking all over Mr Mobu-

m's ill-disciplined troops.

The rebels are on a roll. But that does not necessarily make them winners. The tension between the aims of the rebels and their outside backers may be growing. Rwanda and Uganda may not support Mr Kabila much longer now they are rid of the hostile forces once given sanctuary by Zairė.

Mr Kabila, and millions of Zaireans, can only hone his recent high-profile acceptance is a sign that the international community is now as interested in the thwarted aspirations of the Zairean people as it is in political stability and the preservation of national boundaries.



Fate hanging in the balance: A Rwandan refugee child being weighed at the UN camp at Tingi Tingi, in eastern Zaire, which is under threat from Laurent Kabila's advancing rebei army

significant shorts

Pakistan PM calls for initiative on Kashmir

Pakistan's new Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif proposed talks with his Indian counterpart HD Deve Gowda to settle the dispute over the Kashmir region. Mr Sharif said in a letter that their meeting should be preceded by preparatory talks between the foreign ministry secretaries of the two countries before the end of March. India has

British role in Cyprus urged

The UN is counting on British and US support to start talks between the opposed communities in Cyprus this year. The divided island was the main subject of highlevel talks in London on Wednesday night between Kofi Annan, the new head of the UN and Malcolm Rifkind, the British Foreign Secretary, Sir David Hannay, the UK Special Representative for Cyprus and Sir Kieran Prendergast, who is replacing Marrack Goulding as the UN's head of political affairs, were also present.

Vatican to restore facade

The Vatican unveiled a plan to restore the facade of St Peter's Basilica to its original glory in time for the start of the third millennium. Parts of the facade, almost as big as a football field, will be covered by scaffolding during the three-year project to clean the marble and repair damage done by four centuries of decay. The work is due to be completed in September 1999. Reuters -Vatican City

Berisha to stand again

In spite of the growing popular dissatisfaction with President Sali Berisha, leaders of his Democratic Party nominated him as their candidate for a second term. The Democrats control 122 seats in the 140-member parliament - which must reelect him - assuring President Berisha of victory.

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Nationwide.

Can the forgotten king of Australian politics show Blair the route to power?

He has dropped from political sight faster than a sinking meteor. Yet Paul Keating - for whom Sunday will mark the anniversary of the day last year when he led the Australian Labor Party to one of its worst electoral de-feats – is something of a role model for

For the past 13 of his 28 years in politics Mr Keating was the most domi-nant figure in Australia, the man who revolutionised the country's economy then, as prime minister, set it on the path towards republicanism.

But, while Mr Keating still has his fan chub, Labor's traditional working-class constituents are not among them. In a sea change which might test the confidence of New Labour, they deserted him by the hundreds of thousands at last year's general election, defecting to the conservative Liberal-National coalition led by John Howard. Mr Howard now rules with one of the biggest man-

dates in Australian history. Keating fans are still to be found among the young, educated, middle-class professional set who wax lyrical about his visionary "big picture": a new deal for Aborigines, ditching the Queen as head of state and making Australia an important economic player in the Asia-Pacific region. For thousands of jobless people in the old Labor heart-land, though, that vision meant little.

Yet one of Mr Keating's biggest fans is Mr Blair, who, as he prepares to lead New Labour into the British general election, has been studying closely the Australian model of how an old-fashioned social democratic party can adapt to the realities of a modern market economy, with its demands for small government and economic growth, while maintaining the fundamental tenets of a welfare system.

The two leaders met in 1995 at the resort of Hayman Island off the Queensland coast as guests of Rupert Murdoch, who had invited them to the worldwide management conference of his media company, News Corporation. Mr Blair was a keynote speak-

hours on the island discussing public policy. "Paul liked Tony Blair," says a former Keating staff member. "He gave Blair some free advice, in a friendly way. I think Blair saw Australian Labor's 13 years in power as an example of what could be achieved by

capturing the middle ground."

From the moment it came to power in 1983 under Bob Hawke - Mr Keating's predecessor as party leader

≤ Blair saw Australian Labor's 13 years in power as an example of what could be achieved by capturing the middle ground 9

- Labor set about holding the middle ground by re-writing the rules of Australia's protected and inefficient economy. It floated the Australian dollar. deregulated financial markets and tore down tariffs. At the same time, it set about reforming the labour market by cutting the number of unions and introducing direct wage bargaining.

All this was designed to encourage Australian business to make more money and export more goods. A key element in the equation was an accord between the Labor government and the unions, in which unions agreed to restrain wage demands in return for lower taxes, lower inflation and, therefore, year's electoral rout. lower public spending.

To help target such spending at those really in need - the old, poor, sick and unemployed - Labor attacked socalled "middle-class welfare" by inof social security benefits. And it in-

Medicare, a public insurance system.

In many respects, the reforms were straight out of Margaret Thatcher's copybook. But Ric Simes, Mr Keating's former senior economic adviser, now chief economist with Rothschild Australia, believes they differed from Thatcherism, and from similar hard-line changes introduced by the former New Zealand Labour government, in

one significant respect.
Thatcher and New Zealand Labour had a model, and pursued it with a re-ligious zeal to the nth degree," he says. "Australian Labor achieved its changes in a less confrontational way. It kept the labour movement engaged in dialogue about change. And it increased the real value of social security bene-

fits to those in need."

Mr Keating's dialogue, though, sometimes seemed to be more sympathetic towards business leaders, particularly those whom he admired for taking risks by chasing bigger markets beyond Australia. He admired Rupert Murdoch for that reason and, as long as Labor continued to win elections, Mr Murdoch admired Labor. Australians gave Labor an unprecedented five successive election victories between 1983 and 1996.

By then, the magic had begun to fade. Mr Keating did one deal too many with Mr Murdoch when he offered him the Sydney Showgrounds - public land since colonial times - as the site for a 20th Century Fox film studio.

To many, the controversial deal smacked of how Labor, in its pursuit of the "big picture", had lost touch with people in the party's grassroots com-munities, many of whom felt bewildered and left behind by the pace of economic change and the insecurities of work in the Nineties. Such a perception contributed greatly to last

Coming to terms with being an ordinary citizen has not been easy for 53-year-old Mr Keating, and the shock still tells on him. Since leaving politics he has given only three interviews, two to Indonesian newspapers. Yet, when he does speak, he has lost none of his friend where it all went wrong.



Common touch: Former premier Paul Keating meeting sch

flair and passion for breaking the mould of the old, inward-looking Australia. In a recent speech at the University of New South Wales, where he is a visiting professor in public policy, he called on Australia to stop shilly-shallying about becoming a republic. "Those who still argue that our continuing links with the British monarchy do not handicap our international efforts, and those who think we should go on waiting until every less one of us is in total agreement, simply do not understand the stakes we are playing for," he declared.

"An Australian head of state can

embody and represent our values and traditions, our experience and contemporary aspirations, our cultural diversity and social complexity in a way that a British monarch, who is also head of state of 15 other member countries of the United Nations, can no longer adequately hope to do."

Australian Labor seems bewildered

about which direction it should take now. Its new leader, Kim Beazley, a contemporary of Mr Blair's at Oxford, knows his British counterpart better than did Mr Keating.

Over the next few weeks, Mr Blair could do well to ask his old Oxford



Rupert Murdoch (left) who impressed Paul Keating with his global ambitions and lent the Labor Party his support until it was ousted by a Liberal-National coalition led by John Howard (right)

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New tigers burn bright on world economic stage

Andrew Marshall

The 1980s was the decade of East Asia, as the tiger economies of Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore shot ahea their neighbours. The 1990s may be the decade of South America, according to a report from American Express Bank.

It says that a group of "near tigers? bave emerged over the st 10 years, showing ecosuccess on a par with the first group of developing economies to emerge as economic powerbouses. Indonesia, the Philippines, the Czech Re-public, Argentina, Chile and Vietnam are all making progress, it says.

Amex has rated each emerging economy with reference to its macroeconomic stability, human capital, market orientation. export orientation and developmental orientation. Taking a 10-year period, it says the biggest improvements have been in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Mexico, China, the Philippines and Vietnam. "Latin America has been lag-

ging, but has been improving particularly fast," says the re-port. Peru and the Dominican Republic are also becoming attractive propositions.

The assessment is based on a decade when financial and economic liberalisation, privatisation and the introduction of free-market reform came to most developing countries and of Europe. International bankers suddenly discovered an interest in investing in countries as diverse as Dominican

Republic, Thailand and Morocco. The so-called "emerging markets" have become an investment sector in themselves The fact that an international bank finds these countries in-

teresting may not necessarily be good news. Much of the evidence suggests that rapid economic development in East Asia, while reducing poverty sharply, has not always reduced inequality. Equally, growth and democracy have not always been partners. And Taiwan. one of the original tigers, has actually slipped a little in terms of

Ready to pounce

TIGERS: Singapore South Korea Hong Kong Malaysia Majaysia Thailand China

NEAR-TIGERS Czech Reoublic Argentina Chile Vietnam

TIGER CUBS Poland Colombia Israel Panama Portugal Slovakia Sri Lanka

Uruguay

Singing all the way home

Freetown (Reuters) - An African American grandmother arrived in Sierra Leone yesterday on a quest for her roots, guided by a song taken to the Americas by an ancestor captured by slavers more than two centuries ago, and passed down

Hundreds of well-wishers turned out at Lungi International Airport, Freetown, to welcome Mary Moran, 75, from Harris Neck, South Carolina, who is accompanied by 14 sons,

Mrs Moran traced her family's origins to the south of the foxmer British colony in West Africa via the song – which is in the local Mende language.

Researchers had played the song in numerous villages with-out anybody recognising it be-fore they stumbled on Bainda Jabati in Schehum Ngola, who learned the song from her grandmother. The two wor are due to sing the song together

economic performance since its heyday in the mid 1980s. Several eastern European countries have actually slipped backwards over the last decade,

Amex says. In particular, Ukraine, Romania and Bulgaria are all less appealing investment prospects. However, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary have all improved. In the Middle East, Israel and Jordan are both making progress. Amex says. The most

depressing news is that Africa is still a slough of despond, economically at least. Only Ghana and Kenya show progress.

In general, however, Amex is

optimistic about the developing world. "The current emerging market enthusiasm, characterised by tight lending spreads, the strong performance of Brady and other debt instruction, ments and long-term bond issues by emerging market issuers reflects this positive outlook," the report says.

Tight lending spreads means that developing countries can increasingly borrow at more advantageous rates; Brady bonds, named after former US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, were developed to help debtor countries escape from the circle of debt and poverty.

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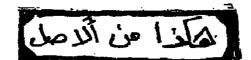
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AREVIEW

PAUL MITCHELL

26.5

Professor Colin Smith

Colin Smith was one of Britain's leading authorities on medieval Spanish literature, and the compiler of the best and most widely used Spanish-English/ English-Spanish dictionary, the Collins dictionary. His unusually wide range of interests ten shrouded earlier civilisaincluded archaeology and en-tomology, and led him to joint desire to know how things have authorship of The Place-Names

of Roman Britain (1979). Smith was a big man: his height and large frame immediately conveyed energy and purposefulness. Possessed furthermore of remarkable physical and mental co-ordination. he walked faster, and thought faster, than anybody else. His powers of organisation were fearsome, as was his attention to detail. When a university colleague remarked that Colin Smith was capable of reorganising the Civil Service in a week. another challenged this view. saving that Smith could achieve this on a Friday afternoon. He was a man who redeemed time by the minute and second.

Born in Brighton, he was very much a Sussex man, and never lost that burr, so sweet on the ear. He was born in 1927 into a family that appreciated learning and the arts. His formal education was received at Varn-dean School, Brighton, but his First, life led him northwards,

father's interest in archaeology, and the chances thereby given a young lad to take part in digs, left a more permanent mark. In Chichester, Roman Britain lay just below the surface, and along that coast the contours ofcome to be as they are.

He was lucky too in that the

educational divide between arts

and sciences did not apply. Denot only did he retain his interest in biology, but he re-mained for all his life an ardent field entomologist. Indeed, in the first days of retirement he discovered a new moth in his native Sussex, the Southern Chestnut. A sense of the unity of all knowledge perhaps lay behind his love of lexicography, since words are a way of laying fleeting hold on the world entire. He certainly became a polymath, a rare breed in the present age of rigid specialisation. With his senumental fondness for Renaissance scholars, he might have identified himself with an Aldrete, or a Nebrija.

He went to Cambridge, and took a first class degree in 1950

Leather: angel and devil

Photograph: Lisa Micklewnght

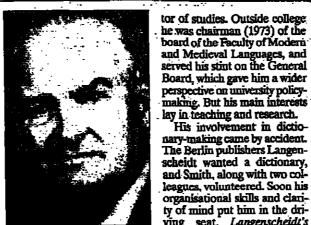
Greek theatre became the

scene of early dramatic perfor-

mances in Greek plays, Henry

to Leeds University, where he worked for some 15 years in the Department of Spanish. The period of 1953-68 was one of expansion, a time when British universities were still universities. He belonged to a young department, where people had time for each other, could learn by argument and exchange of opinion; a time also when teaching was an enjoyment, and you got to know your students. Smith was a good colleague, a fine scholar, warm-hearted, humorous, earthy, irreverent. The respect felt for his qualities was shown in his appointment as Sub-Dean of Arts (1963-66), and his promotion (in 1964) to a

senior lectureship He had arrived there in 1953 as someone working in Golden Age studies, an expert in that most abstruse and challenging of subjects, the poetry of Luis de Gongora. But his PhD thesis on Góngora's poetic language led him back to the 15th century, and thereby to an old favourite, philology. The in-ner, and often invisible, logic of any scholar's career now took over: he became a medievalist.



Smith: indefatigable

edition of the Poema broke decisively with the prevailing Spanish editorial practice, and a stream of articles threw up provocative ideas (some worked, some did not). His anthology Spanish Ballads (1964) was the standard for many years.

In 1968 he returned to Cambridge as a university lecturer. and was soon given a fellowship at Cath's. In 1975 he was appointed to the chair of Spanish, a position he occupied until his early retirement in 1990. Also in 1975, he become professorgreat European epics, the *Poema de mio Cid*. He was not afraid of controversy: his 1972 ial fellow at his old college. He was a "good college man", having been both tutor and directions.

tor of studies. Outside college he was chairman (1973) of the board of the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, and served his stint on the General Board, which gave him a wider perspective on university policymaking. But his main interests lay in teaching and research. His involvement in dictio-

nary-making came by accident.

and Smith, along with two colleagues, volunteered. Soon his organisational skills and clarity of mind put him in the driving seat. Langenscheidt's Standard Dictionary of Spanish and English appeared in 1966, a second and revised edition in 1988. In a lecture in 1993 Smith reflected bitterly on the lack of proper recognition still being suffered by lexicographers. In fact, this had not deterred him from accepting the challenge of a more ambitious project, where he was more or less given free rein. With the help of colleagues in Leeds, Cambridge, New York and elsewhere, his Collins Spanish-English English-Spanish Dictionary appeared in 1971, a formidable achievement that

provided a blueprint for any

en to prepositional usage, and the naturalness of its renderings. of foreign phrases. Smith was proud too that, taking advantage of a greater liberalism of outlook in both Spain and England, he was able to include many taboo words. However, the coverage of South-American usage was still inadequate, a weakness greatly remedied in the revised edition of 1988, and in even greater degree in the magnifi-cent third edition of 1992. By the time of his 1993 lecture this indefatigable lexicographer was at least contemplating a future version on CD-Rom.

Whilst articles by him were still appearing on the epic and on ballads, the focus of his main research was moving elsewhere. His knowledge of the evolution of Latin in the Iberian peninsula into various derivative languages or dialects made him aware of a distant parallel. What had British Latin been like, as it developed under the influence of another, and Celtic, substratum? And what of those Latin place names with which he had become familiar during his adolescent explorations into the British future bilingual dictionary.

Its main qualities were its developed into an ambitious comprehensiveness, its clarity of plan. He knew he was in for fer to be thought of as a fami-

interests and reputations to take account of, but above all be was an outsider, with a Romance philologist's way of looking at things, a mere vulgar-Latin in a Celtic craftshop. His co-author ALF. Rivet's status as a proper classicist afforded him a little protection. Together they persevered, and indeed were greatly assisted by leading Celtic scholars. The result was their book The Place-Names of Ro-man Britain. This appeared in 1979, was reprinted in 1981, and at the time of his death Smith was planning a revised edition. He rightly considered this outstanding study to be his lasting memorial as a scholar.

He eschewed formalities, but recognition came, nevertheless with his Cambridge LittD (1985), his appointment in 1988 as Commander in the Order of Isabel la Católica, a great hon-our indeed; and in 1996 came an honour of a different kind, for he was made president of the Modern Humanities Research Association (MHRA), in part a recognition of his contribution as Hispanic editor (1974-81), and General Editor (1976-81)

arrangement the attention give trouble: the material was by man, at home with his wife deemed intractable, there were and three daughters; a private man, not given to talking about the breadth of his activities, a man who liked to grow his own vegetables, one who loved opera (his MHRA Presidential address was "On Opera and Lit-. erature"). Even in retirement, however, he had to till new ground - translation this time, and a new love, Galicia and some of its authors. His translations of two novels, by Alvaro Cunqueiro and Gonzalo Torrente Ballester, have been published in the Everyman Library; one of them won him a distinguished literary prize in Galicia.

÷. v

Gareth Alban Davies Christopher Colin Smith, Hispano-medievalist, lexicographer. born Brighton, Sussex 27 September 1927; Assistant Lectures, Department of Spanish, Leeds University 1953-56, Lecture 1956-64, Serior Lecturer 1964-68, Sub-Dean of Arts 1963-66; University Lecturer in Spanish, Cambridge University 1968-75, Professor of Spanish 1975-90; Fellow, St Catharine's College, Cambridge 1968-97; Hispanic Editor. Modern Language Review 1974-81, General Editor 1976-81; married 1954 Ruth Barnes (three daughters, and one son deceased); died Cambridge 16 February 1997.

John Leather

For many years a slight, emaciated figure would be seen dancing and singing at dawn on Primrose Hill, in north-west London. The same figure would sometimes be found later in the day, dressed as a stylish beggar, walking, regardless of safety, in the streets and traffic of Camden Town and Regent's Park, often talking to himself in a voice of exquisite modulation. This was John Leather, who had become a notable presence in the district since he bought a house in Chalcot Crescent in 1957.

There was more to Leather than eccentricity and madness. He exercised an intense personal influence, mostly for the good, on scores of people of diverse backgrounds and attainments and few who encountered him, even momentarily, will forget him.

He was born at Ilkley in 1916, the eldest of the four sons a sensitive, effeminate child, of Harry Leather, an accountant and businessman, and his wife, born Nancy Adams. Both sides of the family were cultivated and had roots in Quakerism. Harry was a hard, onick-tempered father who saw his first-horn son as a hopeless case, yet did much to help him. Nancy became and received an inspiring letter the inspiration of John's life to of encouragement in return. the point of idolisation and, though he sorely tried her, her

loyalty to him was unfailing. He was educated at Aysgarth School, Yorkshire, and Bradfield College, Berkshire. It was at Bradfield that his future life Beaux Arts, Lausanne, where he received its first stimulation. received the first prize in draw-The stained glass by Burne- ing and design and then went on Hammersmith, in 1946. Jones in the dining hall opened to the Bartlett School of Arhis eyes to beauty and the chitecture, London University,

where he took a course in interior decoration. In his spare time he took ballet lessons at the Craske Ryan School while attending evening classes in life drawing and painting under Mark Gertler and Meninsky. He then took a drama course

at Everyman's Theatre, Hampstead, and Sir Lewis Casson gave him the part of Marchbanks (a role in which he excelled) in Shaw's Candida, playing opposite Sybil Thorndike at the Old Vic. Casson recognised Leather's abilities, saw that he was dissipating his talents and needed theatrical backbone. He was sent to Elsie Fogerty, the voice expert, and this brought him into the life of the actress Martita Hunt, who took him up and remained a lifelong friend. In 1940 Leather suffered a

with a particular interest in

epic theory, and in one of the

V and The Gondoliers. John was nervous breakdown, which led quite unsuited to public-school to his being confined. During life. He was brutally bullied but the Second World War (in bravely founded a ballet society; which he was unfit for service) he won reading prizes and he discovered Edward Gordon Hunt secured him Shakespearean parts in repertory and Craig's writings on the theatre. found work for him in Martin Browne's Pilgrim Players and He wanted to paint, dance and act, wrote to Craig for advice Casson's Theatre Curtain Company. He played in Sir John Gielgud's last production of These aspirations were bad-Hamlet and in La Folle de Chaillot, with Hunt. But it was received by his father, who tried to deflect him into the-Marchbanks that remained his atrical management because it principal character and in the plays of Shaw that he shone. would make more money. In This culminated in a season of 1938 John entered L'Ecole des

> Pollock at the Lyric Theatre. The Forties were John Leather's theatrical apogee.

produced by Ellen

Many who saw him thought he was touched with genius - an opinion not necessarily shared by his fellow actors, who found him an idiosyncratic and unpredictable companion.

In 1947, he started his own "Travelling Theatre" of drama, song, music and poetry, a venture that survived for seven years. Travelling in an old mil-itary ambulance without a driving licence (for which he was eventually imprisoned in Exeter Gaol - a period in which he worked in the library and looked back on as a golden time of contemplation), he and a company of two toured the country looking for fit-ups. Pa-tricia Brent, the BBC radio producer, who played on his first tour of Cornwall with John Maxwell, has only memories of incompetence and shambles. His programmes were too rarefied for general taste, houses were seldom good, accommo-

dation hardly ever found. Travelling Theatre took a turn for the better when David Ponsonby, a pupil of Nadia Boulanger, and Hazel Clare joined the company. Patrons were found in Lord Duncannon, Sir Eugen Millington-Drake, Martita Hunt and Esmé Percy. John Minton made exquisite pen drawings for the programmes. The shows - Alive, Alive O. Skeptic Sceptres and Happy and Glorious - included translations from the lighter French and German writers, English Romantic and humorous playwrights and poets and recitals of early and contemporary keyboard music.

Poems of William Plomer and John Betieman were set to music and performed. They delighted kindred spirits.

In 1954, Harry Leather died and left John an independent income. This brought to an end his professional life in the theatre. He bought a small house and lived for a time on Ibiza, in Spain, long before it became a touristic purgatory. In 1956 he had a second nervous breakdown and was again confined. The following year he moved to Primrose Hill and thereafter led a semi-reclusive life broken by long periods in Spain, Italy and Morocco.

His house was magically appointed with Empire furniture, mercury-spotted mirrors in gilded frames, lustres, early Staffordshire and Hispano-Mooresque pottery, faded Oriental rugs, books, musical instruments, white walls and dust. It became his private world to which the were admitted.

Art came to his rescue as

much in Neo-Romantic painting and drawing as in the exercise of aesthetic judgement. He was a critic of acute percipience, and had an almost supernatural affinity with art and music. His ideals were summed up in Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and Blake. Florence became his spiritual home; Burckhardt and Berenson his mentors.

It was in the Seventies that he ran to move more freely in the world. He chose a mendicant life, delighted in cast-off clothes, free food and accommodation in his wanderings. He February 1997.

let parts of his house for steen rents and could be a wearing landlord. In character he veered between an angel and a devil, inspiring and disrupting in equal measure, yet retaining a palpable quality of innocence. He let his appearance go and was

overjoyed by the result. Ten years ago there came a change. Leather overcame an intense aversion to plastic and had a plate of false teeth made. This transformed his looks and he re-emerged as a beautiful old man, with delicate features, his head crowned by soft silver hair. New vistas opened, he devoted himself to good works, and with them came personal gifts

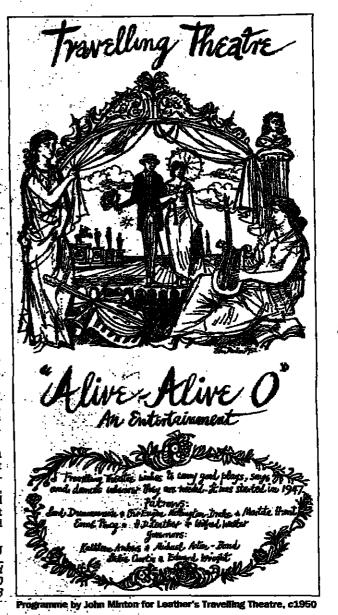
of ever-increasing sympathy.

He unsuccessfully sought theatrical parts as an actor of the old school, and secured the fleering interest of Derek Jarman. He had an animating influence on young artists and photographers, some of whom used him as a subject. He grew calmer in spirit, less aggressive, and the final decade of his life was the happiest and, potentially, the most influential.

In conventional terms John Leather was a failure; but what he was able to give in understanding (however forthright), perception, illumination and intuition yielded fruit that would probably have surprised him: but not that much.

Anthony Symondson SJ

John Adams Leather, actor and painter: born Ilkley, Yorkshire 30 March 1916; died London 13



Kiyoyuki Higuchi

ence and pastime in Japan. where every dig's smallest discoveries make front page news.

The man today considered to be the patriarch of Japanese archaeology, Kiyoyuki Higuchi, began as an unacknowledged boy genius, whose hobby was research in the rich archaeological area around the ancient capital of Nara, the region where he was born. This city, about 20km south-east of Kyoto, name of Heijokyo. The refine- nior high school, Torii oversaw

Archaeology is a popular sci-ment of its culture still influences Japanese art, architecture and literature

Grubbing for remnants of this distant civilisation was Higuchi's boyhood passion. He was selfeducated until his discoveries (he had explored more than 600 tombs and burial mounds) came to the attention of a great archaeologist, Ryuzo Torii, a professor at Kokugakuen University in Tokyo, whose labours in the field had started in much on the Yamato plateau, was the same way. When Higuchi founded in 710 AD under the was only in his third year at in-

his research thesis on the cultivation of rice and the Yayoi periods, which lasted from about 300 BC to 300 AD and was characterised by the creation of flooded rice fields, today's paddies. Encouraged by Professor Torii, Higuchi decided to devote

his life to archaeology.

His studies covered a wide territory of Japanese culture, for it was always his belief that archaeology should be associated with the daily lives of ordinary people. So he investigated the orins and development of Japan's industrial history, the charcoal in-

dustry, the history of manners and Japanese women's place in society - the first time so much scholarly attention had been paid to such a subject. These researches became books: Kantojin to Kansaijin ("Kanto People and Kansai People" - traditional rivals) and Jukoco no Nihoniin ("The Pliable Nature of Japanese People"). He also wrote a history of Japan from the earliest times. Among his most

or salted sour plum, is a common

popular books was Umeboshi to Nihon to ("Umeboshi and the Higuchi joined the research Japanese Sword" - the umeboshi. teams at the Toro ruins at Toro

wry title in every respect for it makes humorous reference to Ruth Benedict's best-selling book The Chrysanthemum and the Sword (1946), a now somewhat disparaged work that the American ethnologist wrote without ever having set foot in Japan. Higuchi's book was also a bestseller and the comical title earned him the affectionate nickname of Professor Umeboshi. After the Second World War.

when they began to be excavated in 1947. This Yayoi Period site revealed vestiges of a dozen huts surrounded by wooden stockades, with two granaries set on piles and about 40 rice fields separated by low earthen dykes. In 1965, Higuchi also discovered traces of irrigation schemes here. It was from the experience he gained at this remarkably preserved site that Hignchi was able to build and expand the modern study

of archaeology in Japan. Another important discovery Iseki in Shizuoka Prefecture was that of the materials used

to make the comma or foetusshaped ornamental heads called magataina from sites belonging magalanta from sites belonging to the Jomon Period (10,000-300BC). A set of magatama dating from the sixth century forms one of the three Imperial Regalia. Some of his discoveries were instinctive and derived from his wide knowledge of ancient literatures and Japanese legend. For example, certain verses of the sublime anthology of poetry, the Man'yoshu (eighth century AD) suggested to him sites

Higuchi eventually followed his mentor Ryuzo Torii as Professor of Archaeology at Kokogakuen University in 1947 and was awarded many prizes and medals for his pionecring works. This charming, selfeffacing, unpedantic vet rigorously correct scholar was a noble monument to culture, in every sense of that word.

ual objects might be unearthed.

James Kirkup

Kiyoyuki Higuchi, archaeologist: born Sakurai, Japan 1907; died

Births. **Marriages** & Deaths

DALRYMPLE: To Willy and Olivia, a box. Sam Hew Tantallon, on 21 Feb-IDAN ION.

DEATHS

STERNE: Max. immunologist, on 26 February, aged 91. He will be cremated and his life celebrated at Southampton Crematorium on Friday 7 March, at 1pm, 0(81-995 4343).

MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Birth) Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, In Memoriam; should b sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Co-nary Wharf, London E14 SDL, tele-phoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or fawed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at \$6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays Mr Peter Alliss, golfer and broad-caster, 66: Sir Philip Bailhache. Bailiff of Jersey, 51: Sir Peter Bax-endell, former chairman, Hawker Sid-deley, 72: Miss Stephanie Beacham, , 48; Mr Robin Cook MP, 51; Maj-Gen Edwin Foxton, 83; Mr Tristan Garel-Jones MP. 56; Mrs Helen Grindrod QC, former Crown Court Recorder, 61; Sir Anthony Havelock-Allan, film producer, 93: Admiral Sir Peter Herbert, former chairman, SSAFA, 68; Maj-Gen Michael Hobbs, director, Duke of Edin-burgh's Award, 60; Professor Maxwell Irvine, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Birmingham University, 58: Mr Jeremy Lancaster, chairman and managing director, Wolselev-Hughes, of; Mr Barry McGuigan, boxer, 36: Mr George Malcolm, musenan, Str. Mr Martin Marriott, former Headmaster, Canford School, 65: Mr Brian Moore, football commentator, 65; Mr Robin Phillips, actor and director, 55; Mr Peter Stothard, Editor, the Times, 46; Sir John Swire, honorary president John Swire and Sons, 70; Sir Brian Unsubart, former United Nations official, 78: Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall, Marshal of the Diolomatic Curps, 61; Sir Michael Young-

Anniversaries Births: Michel Eyquem de Mon-

taigne, essayist, 1533; Rachel (Elizaboth Felix), actress, 1821; Charles

Bank of Scotland Group, 74.

Herries, tormer chairman, Royal

Blondin, tight-rope walker, 1824; Linus Carl Pauling, chemist and double Nobel prizewinner, 1901. Deaths: Henry James, novelist, 1916; Eugene Arnold Dolmetsch, early the last British troops left India, 1948; musical Cabaret was presented, 1968: ed in no overall majority, 1974. Today is the Feast Day of the Martyrs of the Plague at Alexandria, St Hilarus, pope, St Lupicinus, St Os-wald of Worcester, St Proterius and Lectures National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis "Lawe (iv): Poussin, Cephalus and Aurora", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: David Huckvale, "The Development of Stringed Instruments", 230pm.

> Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 5.24pm.

United Synagogues: 0181-3-G 8989. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues 9171-589 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-3-49-4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 9171-289 2573. New London Synagogoc (Masoril): 6171-328 1026.

Tate Gallery: Jill Lloyd in conversa

tion with William Vaughan, "Lovis Corinth: the early work", 1pm.

Juries to be given guidance on awards against police Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis; Court of Appeal

(Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Auld, Sir Brian Neill) 19 February 1997 Juries when assessing dam-

ages awarded to members of the public for unlawful conduct towards them by the police should in future be given guidance by the judge with a view to establishing some relationship between such awards and those obtained for personal injuries. The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the Met-ropolitan Police Commissioner

against an award of £51,500 damages made by Judge Quentin Edwards QC and a jury at Central London County Court on 12 June 1995 to Claudette Thompson for false imprisonment, assault and malicious prosecution. But the court allowed the Commissioner's appeal against anothor award, of £220,000 damages made by Judge Edwards and a there were aggravating fea-jury at the same court on 28 tures about the defendant's £2,000 and for prosecution March 1996 to Kenneth Hsu for conduct. (Special damages, in continuing for as long as two the basic damages unless the ba-

David Pannick OC with Fiona Barton in the first case and with Nicholas Ainley in the second (Metropolitan Police Solicitor) for the Commissioner: Ben Emmerson (B.M. Bimberg & Co) for Miss Thompson and, led by Edward Fitzgerald QC (Christian Fisher & Co) for Mr Hsu.

tent of reducing the award to

Lord Woolf MR said that in such cases the jury should be told the only remedy they had power to grant a successful plaintiff was damages. Save in exceptional circumstances, so as to keep damages pro-damages were to compensate portionate with those paid in the plaintiff, not to punish the defendant. At present, compensatory

damages were either (a) ordinary or basic damages, or (b) aggravated damages, which should only be awarded where wrongful arrest, false impris- respect of some specific pecu- years, the case being taken to sic award was modest. It should

LAW REPORT 28 February 1997

onment and assault, to the ex- niary loss, should be explained

separately.)
Basic damages would depend on the circumstances and degree of harm to the plaintiff. Juries should be given an appropriate bracket as a starting point, to be determined by the judge after hearing submis-

sions from counsel in the jury's

absence. For wrongful arrest and false imprisonment, the starting point would be about £500 for the first hour of loss of liberty, with additional amounts thereafter but on a reducing scale, personal injuries cases and because the plaintiff was entitled to a higher rate for the initial shock of arrest. For wrongful custody of 24 hours about

£3,000 would be appropriate. For malicious prosecution the Crown Court, an award of £10,000 would be appropriate. Where malicious prosecution resulted in a conviction which was only set aside on appeal, a

larger award was justified. Aggravated damages should be awarded where there were aggravating features about the case which would result in a basic award not sufficiently compensating the plaintiff. Such features included humiliating circumstances at the time of arrest or high-handed, insulting, malicious or oppressive conduct by those responsible for the plaintiff's arrest, imprisonment

or prosecution. Contrary to present practice, when making an award of other than basic damages, the jury should made a separate award for each category of damages.

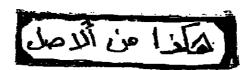
Aggravated damages, where appropriate, were unlikely to be less than £1,000, but would ordinarily not be as much as twice

jury that the total figure for basic and aggravated damages should not exceed what they considered fair compensation.

Where there was evidence to support a claim for exemplary damages, the jury should be told that although it was not normally possible to award damages to punish the defendant, it was possible in exceptional cases where there had been conduct, including oppressive or arbitrary behaviour, by police officers which deserved the exceptional remedy. Such damages were unlikely to be less than £5,000, and might be as much as £25,000, with an absolute maximum of £50,000 for cases directly involving misconduct by officers of at least the rank of Superniendeni.

Any improper conduct of which the jury found the plaintiff guilty could reduce or even eliminate any award of aggravated or exemplary damages if it contributed towards the police conduct complained of.

Pani Magrath, Barrister



Cloning presents an opportunity, not a threat

hy shouldn't we clone human beings? It likely that scientists will soon find a way to produce a healthy baby that is an exact genetic replica of an existing person. After the cloning of Dolly the sheep, there are still problems with inserting into a new animal genes which have been damaged by the passage of time, but they are almost certain to be solved. More to the point, once human cloning is possible, someone, somewhere is going to do it, even if those problems have not been solved. This means a big dislocation in our moral universe.

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પ્રસ્તા *નિ*કારમાં

So we had better decide what we think about it. Our contribution to this debate is simple: we are all for it. We must not try to shackle the human yearning to find things out. The worst response now would be to be guided by our emotional reaction against scientists dabbling in "unnatural" experiments. Our starting position is that the research must go on and if, when human cloning becomes possible, it seems that we would learn more by doing it, we see no objection in principle.

Of course, messing about with genes is frightening. But the alternative is to say, "We don't want to know that", and try to stop the onward rush of curiosity, which

could have even more frightening consequences. Take the analogy of splitting the atom. That has made the world a more dangerous place, but would it have been right not to do it? At the time, this was not a choice, because the Allies were in a race against the enemies of democracy and, fortunately for us, the right side won. It might have been better to have split the atom and then chosen not to drop the Bomb, but it could never have been right to tell the scientists to stop.

The choice is not so stark now, but the principle still applies. We could argue that, as it is going to happen anyway, it doesn't matter whether or not human cloning is a good thing. The decision yesterday to allow Diane Blood to be inseminated with her dead husband's sperm in Belgium makes a mockery of the British law on fertility, and the same is likely to happen to the

British ban on human cloning. We could argue that it would be wrong for the Western scientific élite to abdicate its leadership, even assuming it could be persuaded to, because that leadership would then pass to those who are less accountable to rational democratic debate, less answerable to international controls.



ONE CANADA SOCIARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-845 2435

answer the fundamental question: would it be right to clone a person? Because if there were a good argument against cloning, there would be a good case for international controls of the kind being urged yesterday by Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, a German Euro-MP. The cause of international regulation is not yet hopeless: no one would describe the controls on world-wide nuclear proliferation as perfect, but catastrophe has so far been averted.

The possibility of cloning people s in a different category of scientific But neither argument would advance, in that the product would to bear a clone child. But organ

be a person. This undoubtedly raises several disturbing issues, but these have been clouded by B-movie images of scientists as crazed Dr Frankenstein figures. We need to forget the science-fiction idea of clones as some kind of massproduced robotic slave, and think instead in terms of identical twins. Identical twins are genetically the same as each other, yet grow into distinct and autonomous individuals. It may seem gross to copy a human being, and it is hard to imagine a woman who would want transplants were quite recently ical controls, including international regarded as a form of grave-robbing, agreements. whereas now it would be ethically unsound not to carry out a transplant if it were possible to do so.

It may seem unfair to the individuals concerned that they should discover their artificial origin and then live their lives as scientific experiments. But Louise Brown, the first test-tube baby, has lived with her (admittedly less dramatic) knowledge, and it is one of the characteristics of living things that they tend not to resent being alive.

Some of the critics of cloning have called for research to be directed instead into finding a cure for can-cer or for Aids. This is a piquant misunderstanding, because it is the technology of cloning and genetic manipulation which offers the most promising avenues for doing precisely these things.

That is why, while we applaud the spirit and foresight of our legislators, we do not agree with the han on human cloning in the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, which was supported by the genetic advisory committee yesterday. The response to scientific discoveries should not be bans but more research, more debate, more involvement by scientists themselves in public argument, and more polit-

The case against humanity's ability to safeguard its destiny is not made by scientific breakthroughs, but by our collective inability to protect our environment and sustain the ecology of the planet. In the end, cloning and genetic manipulation are more likely to provide the solution to this threat than to add to it.

Er, no, you can't meet the mayor

The trio that heads the Serbian opposition is on tour around Europe. For the last few days, they have been in London. After finally getting Slobodan Milosevic to recognise their victories in local elections. they want help to promote democracy in Serbia. Among others, they have been meeting the elected leaders of Europe's capitals to form city-to-city links. Excellent idea - but just a bit difficult here, because we don't have anyone elected to represent the whole of London. As Zoran Djindzic. the mayor of Belgrade, commented, maybe Britain can learn something from Serbia when it comes to local

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Forgotten victims of legal bias

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith's article ("Many hands have been tilting the balance of justice", 25 February) gets it right. This is particularly so in relation to the excessive enthusiasm of some prosecutors and members of the judiciary to obtain and uphold convictions because it seems to them right to do so for reasons unconnected with the precise justice of the case before them. Prejudice in the court below with prejudgement in the Court of Appeal are well-known phenomena. What is often not realised is that this is the tip of the iceberg. The famous cases where justice

has been achieved only through obdurate pressure are cases where massive public enthusiasm or doughty believers. The mere ordinary person who does not create an image for a pressure group or has not the unforgiving hardworking support of enthusiasts remains incarcerated.

It is hoped that the new commission will reverse the trend, but some remain cynical. Unfortunate that it starts business on 1 April MICHAEL BECKMAN QC Lincoln's Inn London WC2

Sir. Andreas Whittam Smith has taken no prisoners and none of us

But the openness of disclosure of evidence today does not mean widespread deliberate malpractice hitherto, as if senior practitioners somehow felt compelled to obtain convictions at all costs. That suggests a want of integrity which is not fair, notwithstanding fundamental criticism after miscarriages of justice. NIGEL PASCOE QC Chairman, Bar Public Affairs

Sir: Mr Whittam Smith has looked in the wrong place for the principal umfairness in English justice. As in many things in life, money talks. He should compare the money behind the police and the prosecution with that paid to the defence. BARRY CUTTER Ryde, Isle of Wight

Sir: I am not against the video recording of suspects in police stations (report, 25 February). It is a step in the right direction and prevents police officers intimidating suspects. However, it would be wrong for

the Crown to suggest that a suspect's body movements recorded on video are indicative of guilt. A police station is a very frightening place. If a suspect shuffles on his or her chair when an important question is being asked, it has nothing to do with guilt and probably has more to do with the suspect wanting to go to the toilet. IAMES NICHOL London N4 (The author is solicitor to the three men released from prison in the Bridgewater case)

Sir: It seems a peculiar feature of the English legal system that a High Court judge (report, 25 February) is prepared to spend 10 days deciding the difference between a penguin and a puffin – which any intelligent 10-year-old could tell him in less than 10 minutes - when dozens of prisoners languish in jail on remand for minths, or even years-



innocent until proven guilty – because no one can find time to put SHEILAD HAYDEN Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands

Tanker lesson was ignored

Sir: I cannot accept the assertion by Viscount Goschen, the Minister for Shipping (letter, 18 February) that the Government's only interest is to ensure that the facts are established and all the lessons learnt. He was referring to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) and its report into the grounding of the Sea Empress in February 1996 and the spillage of 72,000 tons of crude oil.

This particular report is not yet published, but another very relevant report by the MAIB has been. This relates to the grounding of the Norwegian tanker Borga in the entrance to Milford Haven Waterway on 29 October 1995. The Borga was loaded with 112,000 tons of crude oil at the time. Here was a modern, well-maintained tanker. with a pilot on board, in good clear weather, going aground due to minor technical difficulties:

Luck was on Milford Haven's side that morning: the weather remained good and the third salvage attempt was successful. No pollution occurred. Concerned at a possible recurrence of the apparent steering failure during Borga's transit, the Coastguard Agency insisted that the vessel was provided with a escort tug when she sailed for Hamburg after completing discharge. Yet the long-term lesson was missed entirely, as proved by the grounding of the unescorted Sea

Empress some three months later. Fully laden tankers should all be provided with adequately powered ngs, which would take up position before these vessels approach any marine oil terminal in the UK. Tug charges would be a minor cost in comparison to the £126m that the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund has ready to pay for the Sea Empress damage claims, for example.

It is a reflection of how much we ignore the lessons provided by tanker accidents that the Sea Empress entered Milford Haven Waterway two hours before low water, unaided. SIMON DA BROGAN Stronsay, Orkney

Sir; Recent correspondence on

pollution from supertankers neglects developments that are aiready rendering the supertanker obsolete. New sources of crude closer to consuming countries than the Gulf reduce the ton/mile factor and need for economies of scale in transportation. Crude from the vast upcoming reserves of Central Asia cannot be loaded into VLCCs (Very Large Crude Carriers) in the Black Sea because of Bosphorus restrictions. Finally, "just in time" crude purchase policies adopted recently by refiners obviate the need for huge slugs of crude that tie up capital or incur pointless

interest charges.
Global warming looms large in the considerations of potential contractors of new VLCCs. Carrent contracts for replacement of these ageing dinosaurs are

dangerously few. Why not just let them die out? KEVIN SHILLETO Shipping Consultant London SW3

Sir: Greenpeace has rightly pointed out that 90 per cent of known oil reserves must stay in the ground if global warming is to be tackled, and that this is not yet United Kingdom policy. Our achievement on attaining greenhouse gas emission targets was driven by the closing of the coal mines and and market-led "dash for gas". Therefore Mr Gummer's oftquoted statements of concern on the greenhouse effect (leading article, 22 February) have not been turned into

meaningful policy.
Offshore, our oil policy is one of maximum extraction and our sectors are dirty and ili-regulated, while the implementation of the European Habitats Directive is largely stalled where it conflicts with industry. Mr Gummer may spout "green", but in a party where market forces are all, the real question is whether or not he has had any real influence. PETER HACK Friends of the Earth, Bristol

Cola in Cuba

Sir: Susan Stevens (letter, 26 February) asks why it is easy to buy Coca-Cola in Cuba, despite the US trade embargo. The answer is that it is imported from Mexico. The irony is that it must be bought in US dollars. Given that only those Cubans employed in certain sectors, such as tourism, are paid

even part of their salaries in dollars. "easy" means in this context "not theoretically impossible". Dollars are also vital for buying other

Tube needs cash.

Sir. I am surprised at your leading article (26 February) arguing that privatisation may be the way

London Underground is not

simply a metropolitan version of the old British Rail, weighed down

not a shake-up

orward for London

by outdated practices and

unimaginative management. It

already has in place the flexible

introducing. For some years now

its management has been making a cogent case for the expansion of

rush-hour conditions - which is all

many people experience - to blind us to the fact that the Underground

provides Londoners with a solid

until well past midnight: the trains

The spectacular structural failings that take place from time

they are simply a legacy of years of

The way forward is not to get

bogged down in the disruptive

process of privatisation, but for

the next government to ensure

public and private sources, to

enable it to run a modern metro

in cutting the congestion on the

which can play an important role

that London Underground is able

to get sufficient money, from both

to time have nothing to do with

management or staff attitudes:

under-investment.

capital's roads.

Chair, Alarm UK

London E3

service from the early morning

are frequent, fast, and usually

We must not allow the congested

work patterns that the newly

privatised rail companies are

the Underground.

reliable.

Underground.

imports, such as soap.
It is no surprise that many
Cubans resort to prostitution or the black market, since a job paid in pesos will never allow huxuries such as Coca-Cola. The "dollar apartheid" is another consequence of being the only people in the world oppressed by two governments at once. SEBASTIAN BOYD

Schools hazard

Sir. The Cancer Research Campaign (CRC) is to educate children as young as nine in the facts about cancer (report, 24 February). Of course smoking is a major cause of hing cancer. However, cancers are not insignificant.

Exposure to asbestos dust causes more than 3,000 cancer deaths per year. Many of our schools are riddled with asbestos. In 1994, Shirley Gibson, 36, became the first teacher to die of the asbestos cancer mesothelioma. Many local authorities have not identified the potential asbestos hazard in their schools, let alone done anything about it. AJPDALTON

National Health and Safety Transport and General Workers

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Why England is short of water

Sir: F Mary Poole (letter, 26 February) marvels that parched Arizona has abundant water supplies, in contrast to England, where rainfall is plentiful". Consider a few facts.

England has no high mountains and glaciers, and therefore no large rivers. Compared with Arizona's mighty Colorado, the Thames above Teddington is a ditch. Eastern England may feel damp, but is rather dry: Cambridge has less annual rainfall than any place in Italy, South-east England has the highest population per hectare of catchment area in the world (not counting Gibraltar, Hong Kong, etc). Much of Arizona has fewer than five persons per square mile.

Most consumers don't pay for water by how much they use, so they have no incentive to 'spending money like water" to describe profligacy.

A few years ago I pioneered a department at Cranfield University to teach these and allied facts. It thrives, but clearly the message still needs spreading.
Professor GEORGE SOLT Emberton, Buckinghamshire

Sir: Contrary to the impression gained by F Mary Poole, Arizona and the rest of the US South-west make a very bad example of water management. The Colorado is no longer mighty - not only has it been tamed and dammed, with many adverse ecological effects, but it now disappears into the Mexican sands before even reaching the Pacific. The water table has been lowered throughout the region, and Las Vegas is in grave danger of running out of water.

The conspicuous consumption of water in this area, with no thought either for the environment or future generations, is an excellent example for us of how not to do it. ALAÑ PHOWES Dunblane, Penhshire

Put your money on the asteroid

Sir: "I'm no statistician," writes Charles Wroe (letter, 26 February). Nor, it would seem, a very careful reader of Oliver Morton's excellent and thought-provoking article ("So who cares if the sky is falling?", 25

February).
The reason there have been a hundred or so National Lottery jackpot-winners is that the draw has taken place once or twice a week for the past couple of years. Alas, usually only one or two people win each time.

In contrast, a smallish asteroid hits the Earth only about once in 500,000 years, but would kill about a quarter of the global population in one go. Taking the long-term average, the odds of this happening to any one of us in our lifetime are indeed greater than those of winning the lottery. Dr DAVID A ROTHERY Department of Earth Sciences The Open University Milton Keynes, Buckinghumshire

Takes the cake

Sir: I read with interest the discussions about whether prisoners' food was giving them enough nutrition ("Mrs Howard denies jail comment", 25 February). Are we coming to the position where prisoners will be sent a file with a cake inside? South Croydon, Surrey

They used to be places where you went to buy food, but now they are vast, sparkling commercial centres. And there's much more to come, says Ann Treneman

Date: Two weeks before the general election in the year 2007. Place: A supermarket, though it is now called a Consumer Community Centre.

Scene: A man wearing a community enhancement monitor looks over the Great British (née Brussels) sprouts. "I hope we can count on your vote?" he says. "Oh ves, I always vote Sainsbury's - always have since you took over managing that other lot," she says and starts testing the sprouts for genetic defects.

his may sound like science fiction but don't bet your Brussels sprouts on it. Supermarkets are on a roll and no one knows where they are going to end up. Only a few years ago they were merely purveyors - and not very efficient ones at that - of boring old British food. Gravy granules were about as exciting as it got and the only thing that came free was the grimace at the check-out.

Nowadays one cannot see the gravy for the guacamole and soon it will be smiles all round as you nip down aisle 10 to find an extra-special mort-

Hardly a week passes without some big supermarket news. Today sees the launch of Tesco's 24-hour shopping experiment. Last week Sainsbury's Bank made its debut in sclected stores, putting savings there on the shelf with own- made by that nice Mr Moon is brand baked beans.

And don't forget the "firstever direct baby catalogue



Out with half-day closing, and In with all-night opening: the Bouncing Clock tells punters at Tesco near Gatwick airport that they can shop at any time

Supermarket 2007

 Open 24 hours ● Cloned meats ● Leisure drugs ● All-night alcohol ● Doctor's surgery Pharmacy ● Crêche ● Bank ● Gym ● Travel agent ● Vet ● Singles' nights ● Free taxis

and self-scanning trolleys. Everything is "new", "unprecedented", "unique" and offers – of course – "Unbeatable

Confused? Join the club - or perhaps you already have. After all you can now get 5 per cent gross interest on some "club card" credit balances. "This means that customers can save as they spend," says one supermarket press release. "and when there is a special occasion to spend a bit more, they can apply for a credit limit and won't have to worry." This is fine if you also believe that pigs can fly - "See Aisle Six for our Air-Reared Pork" accounts and credit cards up and that the green cheese

going to be on sale soon.

ried. But we won't. For starters, the new supermarket banks are offering rather good deals - for now - and they have an incentive to continue to do so for a little time yet. A Gallup poll shows that almost half of all shoppers carry loyalty cards and supermarkets are hell-bent

on increasing that figure. "But have you seen the prices lately?" asks a friend who has just changed from Sainsbury's to Somerfield in search of a lower shopping bill. But many supermarkets seem to have switched from cutting prices to providing There's a lesson here and it

is much like the one preached by John Travolta's angel in the new film Michael. The story, as Any time anyone other than he tells it, involves a discussion a close relative offers anxiety- between the sun and wind, and Internet home shopping free credit we should get wor- with the latter bragging about

his great powers. "See that man down there in that coat?" the wind asks the sun. "Just watch while I make him take it off." And so the wind huffs and puffs and blows and blows. But the man only wraps up tighter. "Let me try," says the sun and starts to beam. In a minute the man takes off his coat, no sweat.

The loyalty card has several solar-powered features. We feel good as the points add up. We feel as if we are "earning" something. We only feel a little embarrassed as we stand in front of an industrial-sized jar of mayonnaise wondering if we should get three for the price of two and "earn" 100 bonus points. It is now one of my personal goals in life to "earn" enough bonus points to pay for an entire week's shopping. My friends say this is sad but they are just jealous because they keep cashing in their reward points to pay for the odd bit of dry-cleaning. My loyalty has been bought, no

Besides offering Unbeatable Value, supermarkets are working hard to liven up what used to be your basic huntergatherer slog around a store.

Shop Till You Drop - the new Channel 4 series on the "anthropology of the aisles" notes that it is normal for shoppers to go into a trance-like state while manoeuvring their trolleys. During this time, the eye blink rate goes down to 14

something interesting it immediately goes back to a normal 32 per minute. All of those snazzy arrows, signs and bold packaging are put there with the goal of increasing your blink rate.

Supermarkets now aim to be "fun" and "exciting" - and they will even let you go to the lavatory without having to coming performance

in pursuit of a public convenience. There are cafés and newsstands and nonfor sale here, but who needs Prozac rounded by retail therapy?

Extended hours have pro-vided what they call new "oppor-"tunities" for shopping. "Sunday opening has changed many

households' complete way of life," says consumer psychologist Sue Keane. The whole family may go shopping and perhaps have lunch. It's a family outing. It's an event."

That event at Tesco's superstore near Gatwick airport seems to be a carnival. Even the trolleys lined up at the

schemes. Just outside the door a Budgie the Helicopter children's ride acts as a sort of gyrating welcoming commit-tee. The store stocks 18,000 different products and has 800 car parking spaces. It sells clothing

and petrol and has a café that

does takeaway Indian tandoori and Chinese meals. Just inside the door is a pete for the Bafta for best act- character who seems to have escaped from Enid Blyton's

Faraway Tree.
"This is our **6** The battle Bouncing Clock," is on to sell says store general real drugs dispensing pharmacies. The here, but who allow real drugs manager Paul Smythe, introducing a blow-up watchface. You when you are know it is human far to realise this constitutes because of the surrounded arms, legs and voice telling you by retail it is hot in there. Mr Smythe explains: "He has therapy? 5

to bounce to keep the air circulating." Good for the calf muscles and for getting the message across: no one can resist going up to him and tak-ing a "Shop Around the Clock"

"We were open 24 hours just before Christmas and it was a huge success," says Mr Smythe. The store took the same in one night as it did dur-ing a normal day and the cus-tomers loved it. "We even had

from a gala ball to do their shopping in ballgown and black tie. Another came in night-

gown and pyjamas."
The 24-hour experiment is for one night a week - Fridays - at four stores around England. In addition to the pyjama crowd, Mr Smythe is expecting lots of normal types. There are the shift-workers from Gatwick and also the workaholics who toil away until after

10pm or so anyway. We also had lots of mums who came without the children either late at night or early in the morning," he says, "and some older people, too, who just wake up real early."

It sounds logical but you do not have to think back so very something of a revolution. "When I started with Tesco's some 20 years ago there was a half-day closing on Wednesday and a half-day on Saturday," says Mr Smythe.

"I remember when we opened all day Saturday, people said it would never work. Then we opened on Wednesdays and then until 8 one night a week and on and on."

Where will it all end? In the short term, the frenetic pace seems set to continue. There will be more 24-hour experiments, more loyalty card deals, more services and take-away tandooris. In the long term, think even bigger.

"Ten years from now it will

be possible to go to Sainsbury's, say, and do all your food shopping, do your post office transactions, do your banking, have a meal, go next door to the SavaCentre and buy your household things and come out and fill up with petrol," says Sue Keane.

"Perhaps on the way you might stop to arrange a loan for your holiday and by then you can probably also book that there as well."

Of course, one might need someone to go on holiday with and they could stop by the supermarket dating agency. After all it is not only Armistead Maupin in his Tales of the City who claims that the aisles are the perfect place for cruising. In America, bookshops are holding singles' nights. It cannot be long before some supermarkets here do, too.

Not all supermarkets, of course. Some seem to have remembered that they exist to sell food and one of these is Asda. "No we are not going to be a bank. We are trying to be a shop," says Archie Norman, the 42-year-old chairman.

We see the future as being about food - fresh, pre-prepared and ready-to-eat - and things that go with that, like health care and clothing for all the family. That's our chosen agenda. We see the future about offering better value and offering more excitement rather than getting into very complicated services which are the province of other large industries."

Mr Norman would like to see such things as health clinics in his supermarkets and it is these kinds of services that could stop us from becoming a nation of couch potatoes who order our spuds and every-

thing else via the Internet.

Jill Rawlins of Somerfield predicts that in 10 years it may be normal to order "standard supplies" via the Internet but believes we will continue to shop in person for meals, fresh fruit and vegetables and for social (not to mention health)

And what of politics? There does seem to be a connection, though hardly on the same level as the mangetout buyer who was feted by farm workers in Zimbabwe recently as the 'King of Tesco". But we have had some politics from the Sainsburys - both Tim and David - and Archie Norman is standing as a Tory candidate in Tunbridge Wells.

"Tve been absolutely explicit that our business is not a political business in any sense of the word," says Mr Norman. There are no circumstances in which Asda will be involved with politics."

Sue Keane laughs at the very idea but then thinks aloud: "I must say that supermarkets have more influence on the normal side of our lives than politicians have. Maybe the day will come when the market researchers will come round and knock on your door and say: 'Are you voting Sainsbury or Asda?' I can see no reason why they wouldn't. Gosh, I think they'd get a lot of votes."

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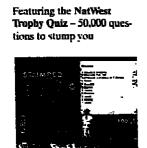


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Pig's ears give me something to chew on

vegetarians, you are V supposed to find out what kind of vegetarian they are - whether they are vegans, whether they eat fish occasionally, if they abhor cheese and milk, and so on. When vegetarians come to supper, you are supposed to cater for their particular tastes, which you have established in advance.

But if you are a carnivore

(as I am) you soon realise that vegetarians do not generally cater for your strange tastes when you go to eat at their place, and nor do they ever bother to establish what kind of a carnivore you are. They probably do not even realise that there are different grades of carnivore as there are different ranks of vegetarian. Oh, but there are, there are. It is very unusual to meet a carnivore who will cat everything that an animal can provide. For instance, I know carnivores who will tuck into steak tartare but who will not cat offal such as liver and kidney. I like liver and kidney but I draw the line somewhere between steak tartare and sushi. Precisely

where I draw this line am not sure, or at least I was not sure until yesterday when I found myself in a queue in a butcher's shop behind a woman who was buying pig's ears. Nothing else. Just a pair of pig's ears. I then knew that I had met someone who was prepared to go further down the line than I was. Most internal offal I can handle. External offai has me looking the other way. Pig's trotters, duck's feet, Bath chaps - no thanks.

The trouble is that these delicacies are often though to be exotic specialities of a kind that should appeal to the adventurous and welltravelled, and nobody likes to be thought unadventurous and badly travelled. Usually they are extremely ethnic in origin, being part of something like Chinese regional cooking or black American soul food. But surely the reason that peasant cooking offers such well-cooked extremities is that peasants often have nothing else to eat and have to make do with interesting ways of cooking these animal scraps. People, I hope, only eat pig's trotters because



Miles Kington

pork chops are unavailable or beyond their pocket. I would hate to think that people actually prefer pig's trotters to pork chops, or would plump for andouillettes when they can get properly made sausages.

Which is why I was rather perturbed to see a young woman buying a pair of pig's ears yesterday, in Mr Bartlett's shop in Green Street, Bath. You can get anything you like there, from rabbit and pigeon to haggis and wild boar, as well as the more normal things, so it is a little worrying to

see people opt for pig's ears.
I have been adventurous in my own day, let me stress. I have eaten alligator in Louisiana, and delicious it was. I have eaten roast guinea pig in Peru, and very interesting it was. I have even eaten deep-fried haggis in Edinburgh and you don't get much more high-risk than when you adopt the dangerous Scottish way of eating. I once ate sea slug in a Chinese restaurant in

Richmond, which I shall never do again, as I cannot imagine anything worse than sea slug.
Unless it is tripe. Despite
the advocacy of Bill Tidy's

"Fosdyke Saga", I have never seen the least attraction in tripe, which has all the visual appeal of left-over floorcloths. The only time I ever dared to eat it was when I was staying in Normandy years ago, and reckoned that if the French couldn't cook it properly nobody could, and

now was the time to take my

courage in both hands. So I

opted for "Tripes à la mode de Caen" as dish of the day. I did not enjoy it. Never again. "Can I freeze these?" the young woman buying the

pig's ears asked the butcher. It was even worse than I thought. She wanted to keep them for a special occasion. How special could a special occasion get, that she was going to bring pig's ears out of the freezer? And what would she do with them once she had got them out? How did you cook and eat pig's

"Excuse me," I said bravely, "but I have never seen anyone buying pig's ears before. What are you going to do to them?" Her startled look melted

into slight embarrassment. "Well," she said, "I'm going to photograph them." I couldn't let her stop

"May I ask why you are going to photograph them?"
"I have been asked to do a book cover design, for a new edition of Orwell's Animal Farm, and I wanted to try something a bit different. So I thought, why not pig's

ears... "So you're not going to eat them? "Eat them? What a

horrible idea!" Maybe she was a vegetarian after all

We know you're one of us, Tony. But who are we?

great gull has whispered in Mr Blair's ear and told him to get personal. Stop all the political malarkey and tell the punters what they really want to hear. So today in The Sun you can read "When Tony met Cherie - The Blair Love Story.

Being New Labour means presumably never baving to say you're sorry. Ever since Sue Lawley went for his weak spot on Desert Island Discs, Blair has been making a concerted effort to show a more human side. It doesn't stop the punters being suspicious that one day he will reveal the reptile inside him like something out of *Dark Skies*. In "opening his heart" to *The*

Sun, Blair comes across as a man both sustained by and deeply involved with his family. He is concerned about the effects of his work on his children and wife. If the ultimate sacrifice had to be made, he says, he would choose his fam-

ily over politics.
All this is fine, until this extraordinary man tries to play the ordinary bloke and spouts on about chippies and pints down the Labour club and watching Gladiators and Noel's House Party and eating fish suppers in front of the telly. I am sure he does some of these things, I am sure he's a good bloke really, I am sure he's one of us. By the way, who are we? I only ask because by ticking

off what he imagines the signifiers of working-class authenticity in The Sun, are we supposed to forget Fettes and Granita and the Oratory and Cherie's salary or are we supposed to assume that Britain is a genuinely classless place and Blair's sudden attempt at downward mobility is a graphic illus-tration that class is but another item in the ragbag of identities for politicians to play with.

If so, class has moved from being something firmly attached to material circumstances to something purely cultural. No wonder the Marxists get so vulgar. The proletariat now defines itself not by what it does but what it likes. Class is defined not by what work you do but what you do when you are not working by one's leisure activities. It seems strange that Blair should choose to play this game, as it is quite clear to anyone with half a brain that there is no way he could be defined as working class. Indeed if class, in the old sense of the word, is needed, then John Prescott is wheeled in. Whereas Ginger Rogers gave Fred Astaire sex, Astaire gave her class. The exchange between Blair and Prescott is, I take it, a classier one altogether.

Yet if Blair is a working-class wannabe then he is not alone. Popular culture is loaded with all sorts of men, who drag up in working-class garb, who claim authenticity by reference to their trivial pursuits. In the space of a few years football has been made both more respectable, dare I say bourgeois, as well as remaining the ultimate symbol of a collective and common culture. Rid of its hooligans, it is now a sport with which the whole family can become involved. Likewise if you are Oasis or Chris Evans or any old footballer then a working-class yob is something to be - truly heroic. Until, that is, something like Gazza happens and then a great deal of denial about what working-class masculinity may entail takes place. The Sun itself had to tread this fine line by describing

wife-beating not as low class but as low life. New Labour is about a concerted effort to appeal to the middle classes. The paradox, of course, is that it has occurred at a time when that class feels itself beleaguered and endan-



Suzanne Moore

Labour's leader is a working class

wannabe who says he likes fish and chips

and 'Gladiators' on the TV. Voters may not be so

positive manifestation it has maneasily aged to detach itself from the old, constraining, definitions, which simply did not describe life as it was lived. The negative aspect of this - the grabbing of impressed the attributes of other classes -

appears a desperate sham. Those secure in their positions do not have to pretend to be one

gered. Downsizing and deregu-lation has meant that the uncer-

tainties of redundancy and

short-term contracts which

belonged to traditional working-

class life are now felt by the pro-

ressional classes. The workers

who have experienced their

rights dwindling away have been middle class. What they took for

granted, from pensions to health

care to decent schools to jobs for

life, has been swept away. And they have been the most vocal

about something which has actu-ally affected all classes.

The result is a society in which

in some areas class is demarcated

more than ever before, while in

others its existence is completely denied. This contradiction is not

denied. This contradiction is not new, but it is being played out in a different way than before. Thatcher appealed to the aspirational voter. Upward mobility could be guaranteed by property owning, the purchase of another microwave.

microwave, enough money to eat out occasionally. It was the

ultimate from of privatisation.

Society, a questionable concept, may not get better but the indi-vidual could improve their lives

New Labour, despite its hard-headed realism, also offers an

aspirational fantasy, but it is one is in which the shared, public bonds between individuals also

get upgraded. The world will be

The language of class solidarity is dead for them because it

implicitly means class conflict.

No one must be alienated. Sadly,

the person who best embodies

classlessness is still John Major.

class is free-floating. In its most

This post-modern version of

safer, cleaner, kinder place.

immeasurably.

Blair, meanwhile, has to be so many things to so many people, one begins to wonder if he has cloned himself, or whether one person can really rush between Granita and the Labour club, gala dinners and the footie, all the while demanding balsamic vinegar on his scraps. His tastes may be genuinely down-market, and we have no reason to believe that they are not, but his lifestyle isn't. Why pretend otherwise?

Voters surely vote for politicians whom they realise are not the same as them. The fetish of ordinariness, which always means blokishness, is a peculiar phenom Cherie is reduced to subservient wife, his children to little symbols of normality.

Politics has learnt too much from advertising. It now little more than a form of niche marketing. Gaps are spotted, focus groups observed through two -way mirrors, and politi-cians' personalities, dress and opinions are

manufactured to fill the gaps.

When Clare Short with her image undone finds more favour than any number of other female MPs, no one apart from the image makers themselves are surprised. You see in the midst of all this is a desire for something decent, honest and true, attributes which are not the prerogative of any one social class. The day Blair stands up and says it loud "I'm middle class and I'm proud" is the day we might begin to trust him. He's been looking through two-way mirrors for too long. A vision of middle-class heroism is nothing to be ashamed of. A working-class hero may still be something to be. But only if you have no other choice and only when Saturday comes.

Why we are too wet about water

by Nicholas Schoon

omething momentous is happening to our water, something that will transform the way societies economies work around the globe in the next century. We are starting to run short of the stuff in some parts of these wet and windy islands, mainly because we demand more and more of it. The usual response to looming water shortages would be to dig a few more reservoirs, sink a few more boreholes and

expand the supply.

But a powerful consensus has recently emerged that this is completely the wrong answer. Instead, rising demand should be constrained. We will come to the whys and hows, the rights and wrongs, of that constraint in a moment. But first, its sig-

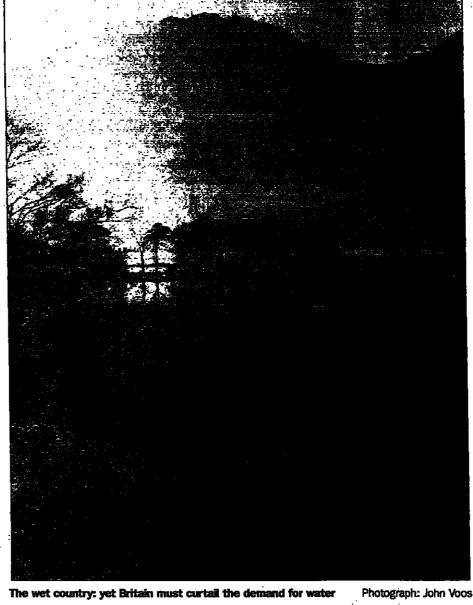
When a commodity goes into short supply the price goes up. That encourages suppliers to find new sources or to develop alternatives. Since civilisation began, humanity has been able, by and large, to expand supplies of most things in line with increasing population and ris-ing affluence. Of course there have always been local shortages for one reason or another. and a few more esoteric commodities, such as whale products, have virtually disappeared because of over-exploitation.

But generally we have been able to win more and more supplies through a combination of technological advances, improved efficiency, discover-ing alternatives and looking further afield Becoming richer has been all about consuming more stuff, stuff as diverse as space, water, energy, clothing, travel and electronics.

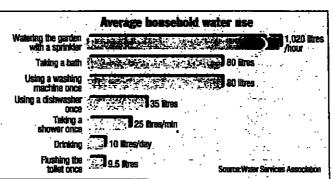
Of course this cannot go on for ever. The interesting thing about being alive in the century after 2000 is that this will be the age when supply limits will will probably stabilise at a little less than twice its present level of 5.8 billion, but economies will keep on growing. Because of the weight of human numbers and their aspirations for higher standards of living, all sorts of industries that rely on finite natural resources – fossil fuels, water, timber, fish – will start hitting global limits.

That could lead to escalating shortages and prices. Businesses, governments and educated consumers will want to avoid the inevitable chaos and unhappiness, but they will also want to avoid the corruption and inefficiencies that would spring up if the state moved in and started rationing. Demand constraint, or demand manment as it is more congenially entitled, will be one of their most important solutions to these looming supply crises. England's water shortages

are showing us the way to a future in which the link between rising standards of living and rising consumption



Photograph: John Voos



of materials is finally broken. for demand management emerged last week, when the 27 smaller water companies of England and Wales announced that they wanted several big new reservoirs to be built, and they were swiftly slapped down by the two government water regulators, the Environment Agency and Ofwat. Both argued that the companies' efforts and investments should go into cutting waste - by them-selves and their customers - in order to stop the steadily growing demand for water. Talk of

Public water supplied

spending large sums securing new supplies was premature.
The regulators were backed up by environmental organisations, including Friends of the Earth which pointed out that

using more and more of the

rainwater that falls on Britain change attitudes and encourage are now numerous, well documented examples of rivers, wetlands and lakes that have been damaged by water companies and farmers taking too much.

Yesterday the Government's Round Table on Sustainable Development, which advises ministers on long-term issues affecting the environment, economy and society, added its voice to the chorus calling for demand management.

Water companies, large and small, disagree. They call for a twin-track approach - demand management and investment in expanding supplies. They argue that climate change means it could well become drier and the time has come to plan for this. Furthermore, they claim that however hard they try to

sink new boreholes, or pipe the stuff down from the wetter west and north of the country, they say. But do they wish to see their water bills rise, still further, to pay for all the investment this will entail? What if it works out much cheaper to use water more wisely instead?

According to the regulators, it makes much better economic sense to cut the huge quantities that industry and its customers waste than to expand supplies. Of course, people also use sil fuels in an extraordinarily wasteful way while their demands keep on rising. Only with water are the regulators starting to press home attempts

The companies are, quite rightly, being forced to cut leakage from their pipes. But. as examples of best practice from the most enlightened companies shows, there is also enormous scope for them to help their customers use less without having to share baths, drop hygiene standards and generally live more miserable lives.

they can include vouchers that entitle customers to discounts on water-saving devices - such as gravity-fed showers, water butts, and end-of-hose attachments that allow you to turn the flow on and off there instead of having walk back to the tap. The companies all ought to offer their customers free leak detection. And it really isn't too much to expect people to turn off the tap while they brush their teeth.

But there is one really painful nettle which has to be grasped - the much loathed water meter. Having your consumption of water measured does, as trials have repeatedly shown, encourage people to use it more carefully. It makes no sense to meter every home in the land; for one thing it is difficult to provide water meters in flats. But it is fair and reasonable to insist that households that use a lot of water (and can afford to pay), such as those with gardens and outside taps or swimming pools, have meters, fitted free.

The consensus on the need for demand management is far ment and the public have to commodities - energy, timber, perhaps even travel - and find export markets for our techniques. A future beckons in which small really is beautiful and less means more.

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tinue to want more water.

Many customers will think all

this is crazy. Britain is plainly a

rainy country, and if some parts

such as the South-East and

East Anglia are suffering short-

ages then build new reservoirs.

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MOTOR INSURANCE

Hedy Lamarr's deadly weapons

More than just a Hollywood icon, she was a pioneer of military technology, says Edward Helmore

n an extraordinary marriage of beauty and brains it turns Lout that Hedy Lamarr, to many one of Hollywood's most glamorous actresses, was an accomplished inventor who developed an early guidance system for torpedoes that was later developed to become the basis for some of the world's most secret communication

In the odd tradition of celebrity patents - one that includes Harry Houdini's diving suit, Lillian Russell's trunkcum-dresser, Zeppo Marx's cardiac wristwatch and "Mark Twain's Patent Scrapbook" - the little-known and improbable tale of how Lamarr bridged the worlds of showbiz and technology to become a pioneer of husbands, the avant-garde com-advanced weaponry was recently unearthed by Hans-loochies Provided to the same stands and the same stands are storied or her same storied or her sa Joachim Braun, a history professor at Universitat der Bundeswehr in Hamburg.

As a teenage actress in prewar Berlin. Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler, who would later be given the name Hedy Lamarr by a film-score composer, had

the Hollywood film mogul Louis B Mayer at MGM, showed the world her acting skills and much of herself in the 1933 Czech film Extase (Ecstasy). Her performance attracted Fritz Mandl, a powerful Austrian arms dealer, who won her hand and presented her as a hostess of Viennese society. entertaining such figures as Hitler and Mussolini.

In 1937 the two divorced, Mandl becoming an adviser to Juan Peron in Argentina, while Madame Mandl moved to Hollywood where she became Hedy Lamarr and starred opposite Clark Gable and Spencer Tracy in such films as Samson and Delilah and Comrade X. There she met the second of her six sition Ballet Mechanique, which required 16 synchronised player-pianos and caused a sensation when it was first per-

formed in Paris in 1926. Antheil, who was working as



written a series of advice columns to the lovelorn in Esquire and published a book, Every Man His Own Detective: A Study of Glandular Endocrinology. In the summer of 1940, the 26-year-old film beauty met Antheil at a dinner rty and apparently proached him to inquire how she could enlarge her breasts. The subject soon turned to weaponry when she revealed she was considering leaving Hollywood to work for the National Invention Council in

Washington DC. Lamarr had the idea that a torpedo's radio guidance signal could not be jammed if the signal was hopped across at seemingly random frequencies at split-second intervals. Would-be eavesdroppers would hear only unintelligible blips, and attempts to jam the signal would succeed only at knocking out a few small bits of it. Antheil's contribution was that the frequencies could be switched in much the same way as he co-ordinated the player

ted paper rolls. Based upon the 88 keys on the piano, the couple submitted their "Secret Communications System" to the Invention Council and were granted a patent two years later. But the clash of cultures proved too much for the Navy, which shunned the idea, put off partly by the idea of having piano rolls in their torpedoes, as well as the problems of radio waves penetrating the water.

The Lamarr-Antheil patent expired in 1959, just three years before frequency-hopping was Cuban blockade. Since then it has become the basis of modern anti-jamming applications, for example, the \$25bn US Milstar defence communications satel-

pianos in his ballet using slot-

In her Hollywood days, Hedy Lamarr was often quoted as saying, "Any girl can be glamorous. All she has to do is stand still and look stupid." Glamorous she was, but stupid she wasn't.

business & city BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Centrica wants selective price cuts to beat off rivals

Business Correspondent

Centrica, the former British Gas supply business, held talks with the industry regulator earlier this week in its drive to gain approval to make the first selective price cuts to consumers for decades, it emerged yesterday.

Roy Gardner, Centrica's

chief executive, is understood to have submitted a detailed pack-

taking part in the first trial of domestic competition in the South-west of England. Since the trials began in May 1996 British Gas has lost 18 per cent of its customers to rival supoliers, who are offering to knock

Ofgas, Ms Spottiswoode's department, will only allow

age of discounts to Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, affecting some of the 500,000 homes taking part in the first trial of almost 20 per cent of South-west customers no longer using Centrica; that point has been reached. However rival suppliers including Calortex, the market leader in the first trial as much as 20 per cent off bills. area, have already pledged to oppose any cuts.

Mr Gardner said he believed

"We're discussing this with Ofgas. I don't think you will have to wait long before you see some announcements from us."

Centrica indicated that numbers switching to new suppliers in the second phase of the trials, involving a further 500,000 homes in Avon and Dorset, had been smaller than expected.

Just 3 per cent of households combined distribution and suphave so far moved, though Mr Gardner said more switches were in the pipeline. Another million homes will be able to choose their supplier in Kent and Sussex next month.

British Gas, now renamed BG Plc, yesterday revealed a dramatic, though expected. plunge into the red after making further restructuring provisions in its last results as a

ply corporation. The two halves of British Gas demerged earlier this month. Current cost losses last year after tax totalled £571m, compared with profits of £130m in 1995.

The long list of provisions which hit the figures totalled £1.14bn, of which £822m went to Centrica and £424m went to pay for extra voluntary redundancies across the group. Al-

The headline provisions included £635m Centrica was forced to spend on its "take-orpay" problem, where it has to buy gas at inflated prices. Renegotiating contracts with BP and Mobil cost £341m. BG also spent £70m on the demerger. A further £100m went on sorting out customer services problems at Centrica.

sions. He explained: "Nobody likes to lose money but these provisions had to be done. The only way to get the company in a state to go forward was to clear the decks as much as possible."

Shares in BG gained 2p to 175.5p, while Centrica's shares closed unchanged at 68p.

British share of new investment in EU 'declining'

Economics Editor

Business leaders' fears that the tide of anti-European feeling in the Conservative Party will harm inward investment prospects are backed by a report published today which shows that the British share of new overseas inestment in the EU is in decline.

The figures from the UN's Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) add weight to fears that Adair Turner, director general of the CBI, will express in a St David's Day speech in Cardiff today.

Mr Turner will say that even if the UK does not join the single currency, it is essential for the sake of business for the Government to strike a positive tone.

He will also criticise the Goveroment's "triumphalism" about the difficulties some continental economies are currently facing. Before we fall for the myth of Europe's economic disaster, we should remember that its income per head has grown faster than that of the US in the past five, 10 and 20 vears, and that continental Europe's export performance remains strong. The European economy is not a disaster.

He adds: "Our national interest lies in full and constructive membership of the European Union, arguing from within for the changes needed to make it vestment is concentrated in new flow till be crucial. But it more successful. We cannot France, and China's in France afford to let Europhobia rule."

ing investment flows was cked by economists vesterday. Nigel Pain, an expert on the subject at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, said: "The primary factor in inward investment has always been to locate in the EU. To the extent that there is any uncertainty about Britain's commit-

potential investors." Ruth Lea, head of policy at the traditionally Eurosceptic Institute of Directors agreed. "Our membership of the EU is valuable on balance, and one reason is inward investment. There is no doubt that free access to the Single Market is a major factor," she said.

ment, that will discourage

Mr Pain added that concerns about Britain staying outside the single currency, and having a volatile exchange rate against the euro, could potentially offset any advantages investors saw in the low level of costs in the UK.

The Unctad figures show that the UK share of new investment by Japanese companies has fallen from 44 per cent in the late 1980s to 39 per cent in the first half of the 1990s, although Britain still has by far the highest amount of existing Japanese investment.

for investment from Hong Kong and Taiwan. Malaysian in-

from Europe could be damag- more in Japan and the US, but are increasing their investment in the EU rapidly.

The Government has argued that deregulation and low taxation are amongst the key factors attracting inward investment to Britain. But the UN report. commissioned by the Thai government, shows that the British share of total investment from overseas has shrunk from near-\$22bn (£13.5bn) out of a \$60bn total in the late 1980s to \$17bn out of a \$82bn cake in the early 1990s. That is, it has shrunk from more than one-third to just under one-fifth.

However, Ms Lea argued that it was no surprise to see countries such as France catching up in terms of attracting inward investment after a poor record in the early 1980s. Asian businesses would anyway want to invest in a range of countries. "They don't want to put all their eggs in one basket," she said.

The UK still has the highest level of existing, as opposed to new, Asian investment in the EU - about 40 per cent by value as opposed to 30 per cent for Germany.

The report says that a clear trend towards further liberalisation by the dynamic industrialising economies in Asia means While the UK holds the lead their overseas investment will continue to grow. For EU countries, continuing to attract this predicts that Eastern Europe and Germany. The smaller will emerge as a significant The fear that British isolation Asian economies invest far competitor to the EU.



New delays hit C&W's offspring

Chris Godsmark

Cable & Wireless has been faced with new delays in recruiting senior executives to join the board of the £5bn company it is forming through the planned merger of its Mercury Communications subsidiary with three cable operators.

Sources suggested head-hunters drafted in by C&W have yet to finalise shortlists of applicants for some of the top posts, four weeks after the inernal deadline of the end of

The news is likely to add to speculation that the complex task of creating the new con-cern, called C&W Communications, is slipping behind schedule. It is more than four months since the original merger announcement.

Dick Brown, C&W's chief executive, is understood to have set a final deadline of 3 April to complete the merger and bring the business to the stock

In public C&W has insisted the target is only to complete the merger by the spring, a much vaguer timescale.

However the formal offer document for shareholders outining details of the deal has yet to be completed. Financial advisers are said to be still discussing the position of the minority investors in the new empire which comprise Bell Calemedia and Nynex CableComms. Bell has already completed its £700m takeover of Videotron which was the precursor to the main deal.

So far C&W has appointed just three board members to run the new business and none of these jobs have gone to Mercury employees. Graham Wallace, the new chief executive poached from Granada's restaurants empire, has been joined by Nicholas Meaning-Smith, finance director of Nynex CableComms and, a fortnight ago, Martin Hayton, personnel director of C&W's majority-owned Hongkong

The top firm of global headhunters, Egon Zehnder International, are thought to be compiling a shortlist for the post of director of business com-munications. One likely candidate is David Sexton, who is in charge of services to Mercury's largest commercial customers. However, other board posts remain to be filled, including the crucial job of running residential telephony and television op-

Mr Wallace is believed to have said that additional time should be spent finding the best candidates. A spokesman for C&W last night said the process was on target, though he declined to reveal if there were any internal deadlines. "We are planning the next raft of appointments and it is progressing reasonably well.

The challenges come as C&W is thought to be moving tween France Telecom, Deutsche Telekom and Sprint of the US, which was one of Mr Brown's previous employers.

Boots chiefs contest top job

Nigel Cope

Boots has revealed its succession plans with the announcement that chief executive Lord Bivth will assume the role of chairman role in 1998 while two joint managing directors have been appointed with immediate The two joint managing di-

rectors who will battle it out for the top job are Steve Russell, 51. managing director of Boots the Chemists, and David Thompson, 53, finance director, Sir Michael Angus, chairman, who was due to have stepped down from the role in July next year. will extend his term to 1998. Boots said the new structure

paved the way for a smooth succession as Lord Blyth, 57, nears retirement. However, with two men placed in positions of equal power beneath him it seems clear that a power struggle is in prospect. Mr Thompson is well known

in the City and has been on the board since 1990. But the reshuffle marks another big pro-motion for Mr Russell who was

appointed to the board only last year. Previously managing di-rector of Do It All, the DIY business, he became head of Boots the Chemist in 1995.

The final piece in the succession jigsaw is that Brian Whalan, the managing director of Halfords is retiring early for personal reasons. Lord Blyth's elevation to the

chairmansip in 1998 means be will have been chief executive of the retail giant for 11 years. This period included the disastrous Ward White acquisition in 1989 which brought with it the troublesome Payless DIY chain as well as Halfords and the Fads and Homestyle decoration busi-

City analysts said the changes should ensure a smooth transition. "It will not have any immediate impact on the running of the company. It is really just saying these are two favourites for the top job," said John Richards of Nat West Securities. Analysts said the two joint managing directors were unlikely to get in each other's way.

Heseltine in secret talks with BA over US tie-up Randeep Ramesh

Bob Ayling, the chief executive of British Airways, held secret talks earlier this week with Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, in an attempt to hasten the carrier's tie-up with American Airlines. BA's proposed alliance with

Transport Correspondent

American Airlines has progressed slowly and Mr Ayling is concerned that the general election may scupper the deal. BA's

that the merger could be signed is this summer.

The airline has also consulted Labour officials and is confident that if Tony Blair takes over as prime minister, the deal will be

There are several obstacles in BA's way. Not least is the European Commission, which claims to have jurisdiction over the planned rie-up - a claim disputed by British ministers. Ian Lang, the President of the

managers say that the earliest Board of Trade, referred the illegal under European comdeal to the Office of Fair Trading. The OFT told BA it must release 168 of its landing slots at Heathrow if the deal is to escape a referral to the Monop-

olies and Mergers Commission.

Experts have estimated that the proposed 168 slots, equiv-alent to 12 daily round-trip flights, could not BA £180m. The debate over slot trading has become crucial after European Commissioners said the practice of selling the slots was

Adair Turner: Urging a positive tone on the EU for the sake of British business

petition law. However, it is understood that Neil Kinnock, the Transport

Commissioner, has proposed a scheme which would allow slots to be valued and put on to an airline's balance sheet - thus allowing BA to "sell" its allocation. This would also boost the balance sheets of many ailing stateowned carriers and increase support for BA from its European rivals keen on borrowing against the value of their slots.

the UK point out that the American Department of Transport needs to recommend the tie-up and then consult with US airlines - who all oppose BA's plans. Any consultation period

would take at least six weeks. The alliance involves BA and American going beyond simple "code-sharing" arrangements to a deal where the two airlines pool revenues and facilities. Rival carriers in the US have

The deal also faces stiff op-position in America. Officials in tack on the link-up, which would tack on the link-up, which would give BA and American 60 per cent of UK-US flight capacity.

US airlines have said that BA and American would still be left with more than 3,000 slots at Heathrow. They have also claimed that other facilities, including security checks, bag-gage handling and departure gates, are in such short supply that the open skies deal would in practice lead to little growth

Dutch firm joins queue for Unilever sale

Comment, page 21

Akzo Nobel, the Dutch chemicals group, has emerged as a potential buyer of Unilever's speciality chemicals businesses put up for sale earlier this month. Akzo's chairman, Cornelius van Lede, said yesterday he had "requested an insight into documents with the bank handling the transaction".

He added that of the four businesses up for sale Akzo would be most interested in the two smallest, Unichema In-

ternational, an oils and fats business, and Crosfield, a producer of inorganic chemicals However, he added that Akzo would also be interested in parts of National Starch, is likely to take months. It has not yet been decided if Unilever seen as one of the crown jew-els of the speciality chemicals will try to sell the division as one business which could attract a operation or as smaller parts.

With the four companies expected to fetch up to £5bm, there price of around £3ba. Another Dutch company Gist Brocades, has already said was further speculation vesterday on how Unilever might it would be interested in buying the Quest flavour's and fraspend the proceeds. The comgrances division, also expected pany declined to comment on to attract a high price tag. suggestions that it might be in-

terested in French foods group Unilever has appointed Lazards to handle the sale. Danone, after its shares rose However, the bank has not yet strongly yesterday. There has been speculation prepared prospectuses for the sinesses and the sale process

CURRENCIES

that Unilever might prefer to strike in the United States with companies such as Heinz, Campbells, CPC and Kellogg's cited as potential targets. However, with new Unilever

chairman Niall FitzGerald keen to expand the group's pres-ence in emerging markets it is possible that he will invest the money in organic growth or in

RTZ tarnished by scandal at Sumitomo

Magnus Grimond The Sumitomo copper scandal

slashed profits last year at RTZ-CRA, the mining giant, which also yesterday announced it was reverting to its historic name of Rio Tinto. The group said the fall in metals prices in 1996, mostly copper and aluminium, had cost \$311m (£190m) in lost earnings, while adverse exchange movements. particularly the Australian dollar had shaved a further,\$38m from the bottom line.

The group is also facing continuing problems with the commissioning of its new copper smalter at Bingham Canyon, Utah, which represents the last phase of a \$2bn investment programme insti-tuted since the operation was acquired from BP in 1989.

Underlying earnings, strip-ping out exceptional items, Jumped 24 per cent to \$1.1bn (£701m) in the year to December. The group has moved to reporting its results and dividends in dollars, the main currency of its operations, which would

have resulted in a flat final dividend this year, the chairman, Robert Wilson, said. But in view of the recent appreciation of sterling the group has upped the final payment from 13p to 13.11p, payable as a foreign income dividend, as a gesture to shareholders. Even so, the 10tal rises only marginally from 31.5p to 31.71p. Mr Wilson said the name

change would be put to shareholders at annual meetings of both companies. RTZ-CRA really is too much of a mouthful", he said. The new name "has the great advantage of not becoming an acronym

It harks back to the group's origins when it was floated on the stock market in 1873 as a developer of the ancient Rio Tinto copper mines near the river of the same name near Seville in

southern Spain.
At the end of 1995, RTZ, as the group became, bought in its minority associate in Australia, the former Conzinc Rio into of Australia, to form the current

group.

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While Britain is still the country of choice for inward investment into Europe, its share of all inward

COMMENT

investment has shrunk quite sharply during the 1990s, from one third to one fifth'

Lierence from our Continental neighbours that gives us a certain je ne suis quoi as far as inward investors are concerned and makes us the "enterprise centre of Europe". The opt-out from the Social Chapter, our lated jobs market, low costs and the English language - here in these islands foreign executives can do business and still

have access to the Single Market.

Ministers have exploited the recession in the Continental economies and the struggle to restructure their economies to drum up evidence for the Great British Success Story. Why on earth would overseas companies want to invest in European failure, they have argued. Well, there you go. That's what politicians do at election time. The reality, unfortunately, is a rather less comforting one. As any British-based multi-national knows.

their Continental competitors are far from

down and out. They are not the supposedly flabby and overweight sparring partners in export markets that the Conservative rhetoric might imply. Furthermore, for all the economic problems on the other side of the Channel, our European partners are still far more productive and prosperous than Britain.
Figures from the UN yesterday further undermine this complacent myth. While Britain is still the country of choice for inward

investment into Europe, its share of all inward

investment has shrunk quite sharply chring the 1990s from one third to one fifth. It is impos-sible to know what the precise causes of this

have been a contributory factor. Monetary union sharply divides the British

suggests that growing Euro-scepticism may

business community. Big multi-nationals tend to be in favour, smaller companies against. However, even the bitterest oppo-nents of British membership of monetary union have come to recognise that the hijack ing of the political debate by a fringe of the Conservative Party has been damaging. There is no doubt that the most extreme Euro-scepties in the Tory Party want to shift the battleground from joining the single currency to whether we should belong to the EU at all.

Pragmatic business people have at last started to tug against this dangerous tendency. If an Asian conglomerate wants low costs and flexibility, it can turn to eastern Europe. If it wants to be sure of access to the EU market, France and Germany now look like the safe hets. It might be too late to prevent permanent economic damage.

A far from perfect compromise for Boots

Agreat deal of soul searching, hand wringing and general angst must have gone into the decision at Boots on the management succession, for the chairman round there is Sir Michael Angus, he of both the Cadbury and Greenbury committees on corporate governance and executive pay. The

phenomenon might be but anecdotal evidence | structure had to be just so, or he'd be accused | at the end of 1995, the picture would have | blance of its original name - Rio Tinto. of hypocrisy. As it is this is a less than per- | looked a much better one, with the massive | There's more than nostalgia behind this very

Great British Success Story is a complacent myth

fect set of compromises. Sir Michael stays on for a further year as non-executive chairman, after which Sir James Blythe steps up to become executive chairman. On the face of it, this is most un-Cadbury. The code ideally requires a split in the positions of chairman and chief executive. The distinction made by Boots between the position of executive chairman and that of chairman and chief executive is a fine one that most of us are going to have

some difficulty in seeing. None the less, the reasoning seems under-standable enough. By the time Sir James takes on his new role, he'll only have two years left to retirement. Part of his intended function during this period seems to be to act as a kind of referee between the two managing directors as they fight it out for the top job. Like most compromises this is not a particularly satisfactory state of affairs. Three powerful egos have for the time being been appeased, but the structure established could hardly be regarded as a stable one.

Giordano passes the buck

How should Richard Giordano at British Gas be judged, having bowed out as ex-ecutive chairman by announcing such horrendous results? Had he hung up the gloves

or-pay problem came fully home to roost. Sadly for Mr Giordano, 1996 became a vin-

tage year for the British Gas soap opera, packed with more nasty surprises than an omnibus episode of Eastenders. Some of them, such as the take-or-pay disaster, were not of BG's recent making. But others were. The alarming drop in customer service standards suggests BG's top team took their eye off the ball at the worst possible moment. The 1993 provisions should have generated annual savings of £600m, yet last year's inflation-

adjusted saving was just £436m.

Mr Giordano admits that the pace of change was too fast, but blames this on the industry regulator and the Government for moving too fast on competition. That was a political decision," he complains. This will not wash. Top managers are not paid half a million pounds a year to pass the buck. The real test for both Centrica and BG this year will he proving that the bad years and the massive restructuring charges are over for good.

What's in an old-fashioned name?

towards abbreviation and returning to a sem- i nicely.

provisioning of 1993 working new life into welcome move, however. Apparently the the profit and loss account before the takecompany kept on getting confused, some-times deliberately, with Ritz Crackers, Hard to believe, but true.

The Rio Tinto (wine coloured river) is in fact a river in Southern Spain, on the banks of which the company's original copper mines were located.

Floated on the London stock market in 1873, the mines were eventually sold to local interests in the 1950s and the money reinvested in Africa and America. There's not much chance of Rio Tinto returning to Spain but how much nicer the old name sounds than the letters.

Lamentably, most companies are still going the other way, the excuse usually being a wish to distance themselves from their 'British" or "Imperial" origins, which these days are said to count against them in export

Thus British Telecom, shortly to become Concert, is for the time being just BT. British Gas has become BG and Centrica. British Tyre and Rubber company long ago became BTR. And so on. In some cases the acronym might seem rather appropriate. MAM for Mercury Asset Management seems about right for a company headed by Carol Galley. As does FAD for Fine Art Developments, Most of the time, however, How refreshing to see the extraordinar- Developments. Most of the time, however, like named RTZ CRA bucking the trend the good old-fashioned name does just

Abbey set to announce firm offer for ScotAm

Banking Correspondent ·

Abbey National intends to make a firm bid for Scottish Amicable today as part of its strategy of expanding its share of the life and pensions market.

"We think we will be able to put forward a very attractive set of propositions," said Lord Tugendhat, chairman of Abbey National: "A combination with Scottish Amicable would advance Abbey National's strategy of expanding further into life, pensions, investment and protection products."

The bank derives 40 per cent of its profits away from its traditional mortgages and savings base, but wants to increase that to 50 per cent. It bought Scottish Mutual, another life assurance group, five years ago. Lord Tugendhat said the bank's "record of managing a Scottish-based life

office is a very good one". If Abbey wins the bidding for Scottish Amicable, which has called for firm bids from interested parties by today, it would become the third-largest life company in Scotland.

Abbey bid £1.4bn for Scottish Amicable last month, derailing the insurer's plans to demutualise and eventually float on the stock market. But a bidding war was sparked when Prudential upped the stakes by topping Abbey's offer, and other po-tential bidders have emerged.

pre-tax profits for 1996, excluding the costs of integrating National & Provincial, of £1.23bn, up 20 per cent. If the integration costs are included, Abbey made a profit of £1.17bn.

merger N&P members received shares at a price of 567p. Abbey's + shares have since deen to 763.5p and Lord Tugendhat said the majority of the members who took shares held on to them.

are of mort of new business fell last year centives to its profits.

backs and discounts for remortgaging business late last year but still offers them to home movers.

household management ac-count linked to Safeway's ABC bonus card, as part of a threeyear deal with the retailer which will eventually lead to the launch of debit card, a credit card and instore banking. Peter Birch, chief executive, will retire at the 1998 annual

internally by this time next year.

Abbey yesterday announced Under the terms of the

The merger increased 15 per cent. However, its share to 2.4 per cent or 6 per cent if N&P's share is included – even though it spent £365m on cashbacks and discounts to lure borrowers. The bank charged £187m of the cost of these in-

Abbey stopped offering cash

Next week it will launch a All Treanor general meeting but Lord Tugendhat said yesterday his successor would be appointed



Bristol & West's £1,100 windfalls

Savers of at least two-years standing with Bristol & West building society would receive an estimated cash payout averaging more than £1,100 each, chief executive John Burke said

yesterday. The windfalls, which will be paid on or before 25 August, follow the Bank of Ireland's £600m takeover of the building

Savers with less than two years standing at Bristol & West, as well as borrowers, will receive preference shares rather than cash, while savers who are under 18 years old will receive a statutory cash bonus.

Members will be sent voting forms on the merger, and the transfer document which gives full details of the terms of the deal, by 14 March.

Mr Burke, who earns a base salary of £200,000, was paid a

building society announced the merger was announced, pre-tax profits of £86.6m, an and 25 June, 1996. There will increase of 10.3 per cent compared with 1995.

Bristol & West has 1.1 million members and around 430,000 of them have had accounts for more than two years and as a result are due to be paid cash.

The exact payment for individual members will depend on the balance in accounts on

bonus of £80,000 last year. The 14 April 1996, the day before be a fixed cash payment of £500 each with the remainder made up of 6.5 per cent of the savers' balance.

Those who had less than £100 in their accounts on 14 April 1996, but who have held accounts at Bristol & West since 31 December 1994 will receive a flat cash distribution

On the offensive: Hans Tietmeyer believes that fiscal irresponsibility could pose a serious threat

According to some analysis, Italy and Spain cannot expect a sympathetic ride from France and Germany either. Mr Lind suggests the French and Germans are keen to ensure the exchange rates at which member states lock together in 1999 are favourable to the French and German economies. But Mr Mackie is sceptical about the ement to which countries will attempt competitive devaluations in the run up to EMU. "The difficult, and every country has currency".

economies genuinely converge. an interest in a smooth, stable transition." According to Mr Jessop, if these transitional problems are

> The sheer size of the euro zone will, according to Mr Jessop, make it an attractive alternative to the dollar as a reserve currency for countries holding foreign reserves.

strong currency".

dealt with, and EMU succeeds,

"the euro could become a very

And he suggested that "the euro could eventually become Maastricht criteria make it too the new global reserve

In Brief GUS strikes £868m deal with British Land

Great Universal Stores and British Land have reached agreement on forming a joint venture company which will own GUS's £868m investment property portfolio. The joint venture will own 982 properties, which are mainly freehold and long-leasehold. On completion GUS will have received £200m in cash for British Land's investment in the venture.

It will also have been issued £500m of senior debt by the company and have a £200m investment in its equity. The portfolio produced net rental income for GUS of £64m in the year to March 1996. Following the creation of the new joint venture, GUS will receive an income from its interest at least equivalent to 78 per cent of the income it currently receives for the first 12 months.

UK banks slow in preparing for euro

UK retail banks are significantly behind their continental competitors in preparing for the introduction of the euro, the single European currency, according to a survey by Coopers & Lybrand, the accountancy firm, "Based on the results of the survey, UK banks have a lot to do over the next five years," said David Sayer, partner in Coopers & Lybrand's retail banking consultancy.

The survey, conducted in conjunction with the European Fi nancial Management and Marketing Association (EFMA), showed that the banks are placing a far greater emphasis on the implications for the practical conversion to the euro rather than on the strategic impact on retail banking activities.

In total, 22 banks from the UK, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and France participated in the survey, which represented 60-70 per cent of the retail banking markets in these countries. A third of the respondents are developing plans for conversion, with a further minority implementing plans already. Coopers and Lybrand said 14 per cent of them had not yet started to think Jili Treanor

Islay malt distillery to reopen

Glenmorangie, the specialist malt whisky independent, has bought the mothballed Ardbeg distillery on Islay from Allied Domecq for £7m in cash. The purchase includes the distillery, surrounding land and stocks, which alone are worth over £5m. Allied Domecq also owns the better-known Laphronig distillery on Islay and the bulk of the Ardbeg output has been used by Allied Domecq blends. Blending stocks are more than adequate and the distillery was mothballed last summer.

It will be recommissioned and should start producing again within six months, Glenmorangie's chairman Geoffrey Maddrell said. The reopening will create maybe a dozen jobs in the distillery itself and four times as many in other trades in the island which has a population of around 4,000. Clifford German

Chartton football club to float

Charlton Athletic, which plays in the First Division, said it planned to join the growing list of UK soccer clubs with a stock market listing. It will raise £5.5m with a placing and offer of shares at 76p to existing shareholders, season ticket holders and supporters. The offer will value the south-east London club at £17.4m. Proceeds will go to increasing the seated capacity of the club's Valley ground to 20,000. The nominated adviser and broker to the issue is Teather and Greenwood. The offer of 1.3 million shares to existing shareholders is fully underwritten by Richard Murray, and trading will begin on 21 March.

PIA to regulate long-term care products

The Personal Investment Authority, the financial services watchdog, announced plans to regulate the sale of long term care (LTC) products once they are brought under the scope of the Financial Services Act by a future Government. The PIA's move will also bar insurers from selling so-called "badged" LTC cover, where they market a product created for them by a third party. Companies which want to sell an LTC product will have to create it. The reg-ulator argued yesterday that if badging were allowed, it would damage the principle whereby salesmen are permitted only to sell their own company's products. This system, called polarisation, means independent financial advisers are the only ones who can select from across the industry's entire range.

Nic Cicutti.

Dutch bank's profits sharply up

Soaring securities markets beiped ABN AMRO, which owns Houre Govett in London, achieve a 26 per cent increase in 1996 net profits but the Dutch banking giant gave mixed signals about its prospects for 1997. ABN AMRO also said it planned a four-for-one share split and a buy-back of 1 per cent of its shares as part of a planned listing in New York. Net profit rose to 3.3bn guilders (£1bn) from 2.62bn guilders in 1995 and the dividend was raised to 4.2 guilders per share from 3.6. The annual results included the first disclosure of the bank's hidden reserves, which totalled 4,02bn guilders at the end of 1996. ABN AMRO set aside provisions of 340m guilders to adapt computer software for the advent of a single European currency in 1999 and the millennium, projects which it said would cost a total of 500m guilders over time.

Memory loss

Memory Corporation, the electronics components company, made a pre-tax loss of £4.5m last year, a increase from the previous loss of £1.9 m. Bill Hipp, the chairman, said: "We have a clear strategy that is intended to decouple the company from the vagaries of commodity pricing and to focus our efforts on high added value proprietary solutions," he said. The loss per ordinary share was 7.49p against 3.31p. Memory's shares by 7p to 45.5p.

Stanford Rook reaches trials stage

Stanford Rook Holdings made a pre-tax loss of £965,460 against £873.954 the year before. Eric Boyle, the chairman, said the company was undertaking Phase II trials on the use of its new SRL172 product in the treatment of various cancers and is researching its use in the treatment of arthritis, circulatory disease and allergies. Initial marketing is expected to commence in 1998.

Tietmeyer underlines German commitment to a strong euro Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, yesterday

warned it was "premature and unjustified" to believe the euro would be a weak currency just because European currencies have depreciated against the dollar in recent months.

Speaking at a conference on monetary union, held by Goldman Sachs in Frankfurt, Mr Tietmeyer reiterated Germany's commitment to a strong stable currency. He said: "We in Germany are interested in the mark remaining a stable currency and in the euro being similarly stable and strong." But he warned against irre-

sponsible fiscal policy by member states, something that the Bundesbank believes is a serious threat to the strength and credibility of the new currency. The fact that Mr Tietmeyer felt the need to defend the potential strength of the new currency in the light of the dollar's governments are tightening fis-appreciation reflects the emergappreciation reflects the emerging doubts in Europe that the euro will be a strong currency

lysts believe will prove unfounded in the long run. Robert Lind of ABN Amro be a mak currency ... people have switched from talking a strong euro, to talking cycle. According to David Mackie of JP Morgan, "curada That is very significant."

at all - doubts that many ana-

Yvette Cooper reports on the debate over whether Europe's new currency will be weak or robust

According to Mr Tietmeyer, the recent depreciation of Eu-ropean currencies is not, in itself, a sign that the new euro will be a weak currency once es-tablished. 'Current exchange rate relations doubtless better reflect the fundamental economic data on both sides of the Atlantic," he said.

As Julian Jessop from Nikko Europe explains: "Whether a currency is strong or weak depends a lot on the stage of the economic cycle." The US economy continues to grow strongly. while many European countries are suffering sluggish growth and high unemployment. Furthermore, the fact European tricht criteria means looser monetary policy is inevitable to a concern that if and when the stop European economies

grinding to a halt. But the more important question - and the greater fear said: We suspect the euro will for the Bundesbank - is whether the euro will continue

to follow relative inflation performance". The strength of the mark over the last few decades reflects Germany's low inflation performance - something made possible not least by the Bundesbank's hawkish zeal.

The European Central Bank has been heavily modelled on the Bundesbank. The Maastricht Treaty makes clear that its goal will be price stability, and that it must be free from political interference. Nevertheless, it will lack the Bundesbank's long record of credibility. More important, many fear

that the new ECB will not be as hawkish as the Bundesbank, especially if Italy and Spain join too. In a recent report for the Economist Intelligence Unit, David Curry writes: "There is membership widens, the governors of central banks from more inflation-prone countries could take a less robust line on

limiting inflation." But Mr Mackie believes such fears are overstated. He points to the fiercely hawkish record of other European central banks in recent years. The with which member states'

Bank of Italy is behaving in an extraordinarily hawkish way - in Bundesbank." He adds: "There has been a cultural change. No one believes there is any virtue in a burst of inflation." Mr Tielmeyer's own concern

is that European governments will wreck the euro zone with fiscal profligacy, no matter how well-intentioned the ECB. High borrowing by undisciplined member states could push up interest rates across Europe and weaken European economies. Mr Jessop said: "Other things being equal, the better the fis-cal position in the long term, the stronger the currency will be." However, he added that a balance had to be struck; if fiscal policy was too tight, restricting governments' ability to cope with economic shocks, then the euro zone could be weaker, and the currency weaker too.

Mr Lmd has a more deeprooted reason to believe the euro might be weak, if Italy and Spain join. "Look at the underlying fundamentals. Italy and Spain will find it hard to cope with a strong currency their labour markets are not efficient enough, and their corporate sector is not competitive enough." The strength and sus-tainability of the euro in the long term will depend on the speed

Lasmo raises payout by 60% as profits double

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Lasmo, the oil exploration and production group, yesterday played down speculation of a shift in its dividend policy despite raising the payout to shareholders by 60 per cent, the first increase since its ill-judged 1991 takeover of Ultramar.

Joe Darby, chief executive. also pledged to beef up Lasmo's borrowing levels to fund extra investment on locating and developing new wells this year. He made the comments as the company unveiled pre-tax profits of £67m for last year, almost double the £34m figure in 1995 and underlining the scale of the financial turnaround since the Ultramar acquisition. The news boosted Lasmo's share price. which gained 7p to 246p.

The full-year dividend was hiked from 1.25p to 2p, which will be paid out of foreign earn-ings to avoid advance corpora-tion tax. Mr Darby said dividend payouts were important to Lasmo's strategy, apparently signalling a shift in the company's previous approach. However he insisted this did not represent a transformation for

"We're not talking about being a dividend stock here. We've improved the dividend from what was a very low level in response to the 1996 results but by what remains a very small amount. Shareholders should still look primarily to capital

Mr Darby also outlined an in-



Explorer: Chief executive Joe Darby said Lasmo would borrow more to spend on locating and developing new wells

wards finding new sources of oil. expanding its activities in the brushed off suggestions that Investment in appraising ex-vast oil fields to the west of Shet-Investment in appraising exploration and production ac-

tivities this year is likely to be £100m. up from £75m in 1995 and £54m the year before. However cash spent on developing wells towards the final production stage fell in 1996 by £94m to £153m, reflecting heavy outlays the previous year on large UK fields.

land and hinted that its interest in heavy oil fields in the Italian Apennine mountains was progressing beyond expectations. Mr Darby said Lasmo had become the first foreign group to secure an oil partnership in Kuwait. The new concern, called Khaleej Petroleum, was with a local family which he

political risks in Algeria made developing further lucrative fields there too dangerous.

The group's net debts dropped from £489m to £346m, a level which Dick Smernoff, finance director, said was almost too low. In 1992 Lasmo was left struggling with borrowings of more than £1bn following the purchase of Ultramar. Mr

pany up a bit. It just tells you

About a third of the increase in profits came from the rise in oil prices last year. Lasmo's oil earned an average price in 1996 of \$18.72 a barrel, up from \$17.09 the year before. Production levels in 1996 rose by almost 7 per cent, to 175,000

BSM shares fall as chief executive goes

Clifford German

Shares in BSM Group, the market leader in driving schools, fell 9p to 164.5p yesterday after the group announced the departure of chief executive Paul Massey, who guided the group from a privately owned company through

and leaves with a £350,000 comensation package, worth about 18 months of total earnings. He remains available as a consultant

but will pursue other interests. He has been replaced by Richard Glover, previously the managing director and in charge of day-to-day running of the business. Mr Massey's departure is the result of a review of the roles of chief executive and managing director over the last three months, a spokesman said.

with publication of results for the year to December, which saw by 5.8 per cent to £5.69m, much in line with market forecasts. After deducting for the compensation package, the pre-tax profit is down 2 per cent at

dividend has gone up 10 per cent to £28m, of which just over 4 per cent came from acquisitions. The group now has 154 branches, an increase of six on the year, and 2,220 franchised instructors, an increase of 39. Market share has risen about

£5.27m. Earnings per share are

1 per cent to 16 per cent. The group's business this year has been affected by the requirement on drivers to complete written tests before

Liberty International set to hit takeover trail

Magnus Grimond

Liberty International, the financial services to property group chaired by Donald Gordon, said yesterday it was ready to use its £2.1bn capital base to expand its financial

formerly known as Trans-Atlantic Holdings, launched Liberty International Pensions as part of its "Millennium Project" to relaunch the group into the world financial services industry following the sale its stake in Sun Life.

But David Fischel, managing director, yesterday played down the prospects of an imminent big purchase."We could accommodate any sized acquisition, whether £lbn, £2bn or £100m, it doesn't really matter. But just because we have the

was "always opportunistic" if the right things came up, but it businesses of shopping centres, commercial property and

In 1995 the group received a net £400m from selling a half share in Sun Life, the UK insurer, to UAP of France, and Mr Fischel said it now had in effect an ungeared balance

His comments came as Liberty, which is controlled by Liberty Life Association, the South African insurer, reported a 7 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax taken by the BT pension profits to £100m for the year to scheme last year.

count of the £110m profit on the dend of 8.75p raises the total for last year by 10 per cent to 16p. Net assets per share rose 13 per cent to 445p and would have been nearly 500p if the market

and offshore savings. Earlier in the week, it was announced that Capital Group International, part of the big US fund management group of for a 10 per cent stake in Liberty International Pensions the same size stake as that

cash doesn't mean to say we are December, before taking acgoing to make an acquisition." Even so, the shares dipped 12p to 480p yesterday as the

included, according to Liberty.

Mr Fischel said in financial services the group would not stray beyond its three core areas of pensions, unit trusts

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

RTZ hammered by plunging prices and production snags

Last year was an inauspicious time to launch the marriage of the UK mining giant KIZ with its Australian associate CRA Copper prices sank over a fifth in the wake of the Sumitomo copper scandal and Kennecott, the copper and gold mining group acquired from BP, continued to suffer

gremlins in its new, state-of-the-art smelting facility at Bingham Canyon in the US. Together, those two items decimated profits in the year to December, leaving them 15 per cent lower at \$1.1bn (£701m), or nearly a quarter down on the group's favoured basis, stripping out excep-tional items. As well as the merger itself, the comparisons are further complicated by the group's decision to move to reporting in dollars rather than sterling. It is perhaps appropriate that the combined group should be wiping the state clean by changing its

name back to Rio Tinto. RTZ certainly had its problems last year. Every 10 cents fall in the copper and alu-minium price knocks \$100m and \$55m off group earnings, so the 29 cents average fall in the former last year and a 13 cents drop in the latter would inevitably be painful. But RIZ could hardly be blamed for the 324m those two metals shaved from earnings.

More easily controliable were the continuing problems at Kennecott. Had it been running at full design capacity last year, earnings from the copper smelter would have been \$150m more than they actually were, RTZ said. It ran at under 50 per cent. Analysts are relatively reassured that the problem is over. However, work to upgrade the casting capability in the early summer will see the operation closed down for another six weeks.

Elsewhere, RTZ continues to show its class, with anothproduction volumes last year, building on the 7 per cent average annual increase maintained since 1989.

The group's gearing is now back on the way up again, ris-ing from 16 to 22 per cent last year as capital expenditure is jacked up to between \$1.5bn and \$2bn over the next few rears. Crucial to the future will be Indonesia. At its Grasberg

unit, a \$960m expansion will see production there rise from 118,000 tonnes of ore to nearly 200,000 tonnes by the middle of next year. So while the group's copper output is likely to be flat this year, UBS is forecasting an 11 per cent in-crease in 1999 on the back of

this extension. The icing on that cake will be the likelihood of more discoveries. UBS are leaving their earnings figure for this year unchanged at \$1.23bn, putting the shares, up 5.5p at 949p, on a forward multiple of 18. That blue-chip rating is fully de-served. Hold.

Lex moves up a gear

It has been a difficult transition for Lex from flamboyant Sir Trevor Chinn's US electronics to Volvo imports conglomerate of the early 1990s to a more focused, UK-based motor group with an earnest, num-bers man at the helm. Less fun perhaps, but ultimately what the City likes.

Lex's shares, which traded at 554p three years ago have taken a pasting in the meantime but yesterday's 12p rise to 343.5p underlined a palpable sense of relief that the company has finally pointed itself in a sensible direction. Profits for the year to December were impressive enough at £51.4m,

up from £42.2m. Earnings per share of 31.3p were 14 per cent higher than 1995's 27.5p and a final dividend of 9.6p made a full-year total of 16p, a 1p rise.

But it is the strategic direction that catches the eye at new-model Lex, with its alarmingly youthful new chief executive Andrew Harrison dividing its businesses into those that are firing on four those in dire need of a service and a handful of new operations itching to tear up their Lplates and try their luck on the

corporate motorway. Those in the first group include the leasing arm, Britain's largest, which still appears to have plenty of growth. The Hyundai importership has got over initial teething problems; Multipart has good skills which

RTZ-CRA: At a glance

Managemble: £18.20m, strang price \$49p

The challenges lie in the other two areas, however. Car retailing's returns are below its peers and, by the company's own admission, inadequate. The truck market is also oversupplied and in need of attention. The new businesses autocentres, hodycentres and used car sales - need to grow but the City welcomed the suggestion yesterday that Mr Harrison will only do so when he is convinced the formulas

on the basis of Panmure Gordon's forecast of pre-tax profits this year of £58.5m and £66.8m next time, the shares trade on a prospective price/earning ratio of nine. Lex is never going to trade on the same sort of rating as its more flexible, entrepreneurial peers like Reg Vardy, but it looks cheap none the less.

A hat-trick for Wembley

Wembley grabbed a hat-trick yesterday with its first dividend since 1992, a return to the black at the full year and better-than-expected profits. Not bad for company on the brink of extinction a few years ago.

The shares perked up 9.5p to 405p though it is worth re-membering that they are still a tenth of their value in 1992.

Overseeing Wembley's re-cent rehabilitation has been Claes Hultman, the Eurotherm chief executive who was recently reinstated after a board room bust-up resulted in his temporary ousting. The massive re-financing of 1995 has been followed by the re-negotiation of the company's bank agreements on more removed the drag of the group structure from the operating activities which have delivered improved profits for the past four years.

Yesterday's figures continued the good news. Pre-tax profits of £17m compared with the previous year's £8m loss. The Wembley complex, which still accounts for half group profits performed strongly as did the US track venues.

Wembley hosted 29 events last year including 22 sporting fixtures and concerts by The Eagles and Tina Turner, U2 are aiready pencilled in for this

The only problem areas was UK greyhound tracks where performance is still being hampered by competition from the National Lottery.

Wembley's nomination as the preferred location for the National Stadium will help the company though the financial details of the deal have yet to be sorted out. Wembley has been a huge disappointment for many investors before but with strong cash flow and good manage ment it looks in better shape than for some time. On 1997

forecasts of £27m the shares

£43m cure for Vaux headache Share price (pence) of up to £3m, payable three years after completion. The **Tom Stevenson** City Editor earn-out is based on the number of beds in excess of 1,550 oc-Sunderland-based regional brewer Vaux finally sold its St cupied at the end of that third year with the full £3m payable Andrews nursing bome business BROWN BR for £43.2m yesterday, confirmif occupancy reaches 1,650 beds. ing the worst-kept secret in the Currently St Andrews has about care home business. The dis-posal to Highfield, a Scottish care home group, had been rumoured since before Christ-1,470 beds in 38 care homes in the Midlands, north of England and Scotland. trade on a forward rating of 11 Commenting on the sale, Sir mas and the price achieved Paul Nicholson, chairman, said: was in line with expectations. "This is an excellent result for

Steering a new partnership: Phil Wragg, group managing director of Partco and Peter Redfern, chief executive Photograph: Mykel Nicolaou Partco gears up to buy **Dana Distribution**

Clifford German

Parteo Group, the UK's largest independent distributor of car and lorry parts, has bought Dana Distribution Europe. which trades in the UK as Brown Brothers, one of the leading distributors of paint and finishing supplies to the UK bodyshop market. The pur-chase price is £103m in cash, including the repayment of £11m

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of net debt. The deal is subject to shareholder approval next month and is being partly funded by a onefor-two rights issue of 24 million shares at 300p each to raise

£68.8m. The balance will come from cash and bank borrowings. The deal will virtually double Partco's business, diversify its product range and help it match the trend to increasing consolidation in the UK bodyshop market. The combined group will have about 4 per cent of a

UK market worth around

£2.4bn. Partco had 348 branches and Brown Brothers 134 but in a business where speed of delivery is crucial their locations were largely complementary and widespread branch closures and redundancies were unlikely, a spokesman said yesterday.

The acquisition is expected to be roughly earnings-neutral in the current year before the effect of restructuring charges, and to enhance earnings per share materially in 1998. The acquisition would give

Partco market leadership in the sale and distribution of paint and finishing supplies where it currently had only a limited presence, Partco's chairman, Gordon Yardley, said yesterday. About 88 per cent of DDE's turnover is in the UK where it owns 134 branches. The business made an operating profit of £10.9m last year on a turnover of £186m.

Vaux has been trying to get out of nursing homes for some time, having abandoned the idea that running a care busi-ness was essentially similar to its existing hotel operations, only with nurses. Vaux's Swallow chain is well-regarded, but the company found running nursing homes rather more difficult than it expected when it started building up the chain in the early 1990s. The sale leaves it focused on its core booze and snooze operations, brewing and

Highfield will pay £35m in cash on completion, up to £5.2m in loan notes, repayable

SEM Group (F)

our shareholders. We have achieved full value for St Aitdrews which will release resources for investment in our core businesses of browing and pubs and hotels." Despite its failure to capitalise on nursing homes, Vaux reported record profits last December, driven mainly by its

successful Swallow operation.

Profits of £34.8m in the year to September were 9 per cent higher after a 22 per cent rise in Swallow profits to £24m. The company has struggled to shake off its image as a small regional brewer supplying a tired chain of tenanted pubs in a de-

after five years, and an earn-out pressed area of the country. Company Results Pre-tax £ . EPS Dividend 1.17bn (1.03bn) 56.5p (51.7p) 26.1p (21.75p) 5.27m (5.36m) 14p (14p) 0.12m (0.17m) 0.78p(0.95p) 0.7p (0.7p) -0,23m (-3.60m) -1,9p (-15.6p) nl (6p) 5.57m (4,59m) 7.81m (7.01m) 26.5p (24.8p) 5.8p (7.25p) 1.56bn (1,56bn) 51.4m (42.2m) 31.3p (27.5p) 16p (15p) | 1.50m (1.50m) | 1.70m (23.8m) | 21.82p (51p) | 16p (14.5p) | 1.07m (0.45m) | -4.5m (-1.9m) | -7.49p (-3.31p) | -(-) | 19.57m (29.50m) | 11.64m (1-8.85m) | 16p (-88.7p) | -(-) 10.5m (7.47m) 20.2p (18.4p) 8p (7p) 7.61m (7.01m) 26.5p (24.8p) 8p (7.25p) 10.8m (8.18m) 10.84p (8.89p) 2.89p (2.41p) -0.97m (-0.87m) -5,08p (-5.3p) - (-)

Siebe withdraws from bid contest for Whessoe

Whessoe saw its share price drop 9p to 175p yesterday after Siebe, the engineering group, withdrew its bid for the instrumentation and controls group, leaving the way clear for a continental consortium which mounted a £52.6m counter offer on Wednesday. The rival bidders, Seatex Garex of Norway and Endress & Hauser of Switzerland, quickly moved into the market to build on a 10.6 per cent stake acquired from three of Whessoe's biggest institu-tional shareholders and ended the day with 25.6 per cent of their target. Last night, they were waiting for a recommendation for their 175p a share offer by the Whessoe board.

The market had been expecting Siebe to raise its 155p a share bid, which valued Whessoe at £46m, but Allen Yurko. chief executive, said yesterday: We do not believe that a significantly increased offer would

be in the best interests of Siebe shareholders and the board has therefore decided not to increase the price that it is prepared to pay for Whessoe." He said that its offer was based on sound industrial logic and the "clear synergy opportunities" provided by integrating Whessoe's instrumentation lines with

Siebe's control systems division. He said the group applied "strict criteria" when looking at potential acquisitions, particularly with regard to product technology, growth potential and synergy opportunities. "Valuation, however, based on current trading conditions remains the overriding issue when considering an acquisition," he

Hans Olaf Torsen, chief executive of Seatex, which is changing its name to Navia next month, last night urged Whessoe shareholders to accept the consortium's offer. He said: "The Whessoe business fits perfectly with Navia's opera-

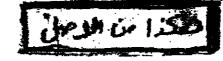
Endress & Hauser in the United States. We are pleased Siebe recognises that Whessoe has greater strategic value to us." Scatex is based in Trondheim

in Norway. It is hoping to merge Whessoe's Autronica marine automation and fire detection business, also based in Trondheim, with its own operations, which include air traffic controlrelated systems and shipboard navigation equipment.

Whessoe's instrumentation operations, which include the measurement and monitoring of large storage tanks, are seen as complementary with Endress, a private Swiss company.

Seatex was originally rebuffed after approaching the British group about Autronica at the end of 1995. It returned with Endress earlier this month, but was gazumped by the announcement of Siche's offer.

Siebe's shares ended 3.5p ahead at 968.5p on relicit and it would not be raising its of



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market report / shares



Carlton emerges as clear favourite to buy Rank films

the clear favourite to buy Rank's film distribution business, famous for its archive of vintage Ealing comedies, for

£60m – well below the £100m-£150m previously indicated. The deal, which could be announced as early as next week. will complete a £300m deckclearing programme begun nine months ago when Andrew Teare became Rank's new chief executive.

A week ago Mr Teare confirmed plans to sell the film dis-tribution business and said he had received numerous expressions of interest. Names in the frame includ-

ed PolyGram, the music and film group, and VCI, the video publication company chaired by former Channel Four boss

Michael Green's Carlton Com- what will almost certainly be munications has emerged as seen as a knock-down price.

Rank is keeping Pinewood Studios as well as its film processing and video duplication activities. That legendary Rank symbol - the man with the gong will also remain.

Yesterday Carlton's shares clawed back some of their recent losses, closing 3p higher at 531.5p. Shares in Rank ended 8p lower at 420.5p. Although analysts are likely to be disappointed with the price Rank letches for its film distribution arm, they are grad-

nally warming to Mr Teare. Merrill Lynch recently changed its recommendation from neutral to accumulate on the prospect of a share buyback underpinning the shares. Separately, shares in Capital Corporation rose 11.5p to 213p as speculation persisted But Carlton, keen to ex- of a second bid for the up-

MARKET REPORT PATRICK TOOHER

to top London Clubs' hostile. gested taking profits and Crédit Lyonnais Laing pre-ferring Enterprise, 10p firmer all-paper offer of £181m. The FTSE-100 index closed at an intraday high, up 9.9 at 4339.2 as dealers discounted a landslide Labour victory in yesterday's Wirral South by-election. Sentiment was helped

Results from Abbey Na-tional, up 4.5p to 768p, also pleased with Schroders among several brokers recommending the bank's shares. Not all news was good news, however. Bank of Scotland was the worstby a steady start on Wall Street and a stream of generally upbeat company results. performing blue chip and ac-tively traded after warning that profits at its 51.5 per cent-owned Australian Bank West Lasmo was in demand, rising 7p to 246p, after recom-mending a 60 per cent increase in the dividend - the first since the oil giant bought Ultramar six years ago. A healthy 6.6 milsubsidiary would be about 5 per cent lower than expected. The lion Lasmo shares were traded shares shed 14.5p to 341p in But Carlton, keen to ex-pand its film activities, is ex-market easing operator. Rank with Merrill Lynch urging

volume of 15.5 million. The day's most active issue

of 17.7 million after ABN has teamed up with Spic's em- Salomon Brothers has Amro Hoare Govett, the com- playees to complete the man-turned positive on cables pany's broker, placed venture capital group Cinven's re-maining 10 per cent stake with some 30 institutions at 275p.

ABN Amro Hoare Govern made a turn of over £200,000 on the deal, having picked up Cinven's stake at 272.5p.

Cinven organised the original buyout of Carpetland from Lowndes Queensway in 1991 when it cut its stake in the car-per retailer form 13.2 per cent. Two years later it backed the acquisition of Allied Carpets. Superstore group Asda sold its entire 41 per cent stake in Allied at last year's flotation price of 215p. Last night the shares closed 1.5p lower at

280p.
Cheshire-based building contractor Amee advanced 9p to 121.5p after confirming the acquisition of a 41.6 per cent stake in French construction

agement buyout from French rival Schneider.

Pharmaceuticals were again in demand. Medeva moved to a record high of 315.5p, 5p strongly while the market healthier on the day, after SocGen said the shares were still undervalued. may have exaggerated the threat from currency move-ments. A dividend cut is un-

ed Stanford Rook 20p higher

to 560p.

In the technology sector shares in Eldos added 47.5p to Shares in Incepta, the 970p ahead of today's interim results while further consideration of this week's results from Sema sent the shares 12.5p higher at 1,262.5p. Pace Micro Technology remained Micro Technology remained has completed its £34m re-weak, closing a penny down at 85p. This week's profits warn-suspended at 21.75p in De-

group Delta. Its largest market - UK housing - represents about 35 per cent of sales and is recovering

Also entering uncharted territory was Cantab Pharmaceuticals, 27.5p to the good at 900p on news of another joint venture, while a positive anaventure, while a positive anaventure in the positive present in the proving earnings the proving earnings to present in the proving earning present in the present i at 351.5, on a prospective p/e ratio of 13 falling to 10.

> sales promotion group, are due to resume trading on Monday now that Citigate, the larger financial public relations and marketing firm,

158 24 34 35 B6 97	pand its film activities, is ex- pected to land the prize for	market easino operator. Rank and Ladbroke are being tipped	with Merrill Lynch urging clients to buy, SocGen sug-	The day's most active issue was Allied Carpets on volume	stake in French construction group Spie Batignolles. Amec	85p. This week's profits warning caused many burnt fingers. suspended at 21.75p in December.
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Services sector surges ahead

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Turnover in services surged last year, according to the first detailed figures on the sector published by the Office for National Statistics. Architectural and engineering consultancy, private eyes and security services, and car dealership were among the fastest-growing services in the 12

months to September. an initiative launched by the then-Chancellor of the Exchequer, Norman Lamont, to improve the quality of economic statistics. The scale of the late saling and motor traders. 1980s boom had taken policy-makers by surprise partly be-

cause information on services - that it grew 3.4 per cent in real sharply higher compared with terms in the year to December, the same quarter a year earlieconomy - was so limited.

The Bank of England has been pressing since last May for the collection of more statistics on the sector because of fears that the emphasis on manufacturing industry in the monthly economic statistics is as misplaced now as it was at the end of the 1980s.

In its Inflation Report, the The statistics are the result of Bank pointed out that the only timely monthly figures on the bulk of the economy were the official retail sales statistics and a CBI survey of retailing, whole-

Previously published figures for the total service sector show

twice the rate of growth of industrial production.

So far the additional figures are limited to quarterly turnover statistics for only a proportion of total services. They do not break down the sales growth into separate price and activity increases. The ONS has calculated the figures back to the start of 1995.

There were marked increases in turnover in a wide range of businesses in the year to the third quarter of 1996. For example, sales of new and used cars, car rental, restaurant and campsite turnover, and film and video activities were all

er. So was turnover in "other" services, including dry cleaning, hair dressing and funerals.

There was also strong growth in business services such as law, accountancy, tax and management consultancy and mar-

Computer activities, from software consultancy and data processing to maintenance and repair, grew at an equally fast pace. The industry – which ex-cludes software sales – was worth nearly £15bn in 1995.

However, However, advertising turnover, and sales by travel agencies and tour operators

fell during the year.

A warning from Albert Fisher to chill the cockles of your heart



Albert Fisher, the food producer, warned that cocke bed devastation (above) was set to hit the company's first-half results to the end of February. The devastation of North Sea cockie beds last year "proved to be so severe that the autumn 1996 harvest was seriously restricted", a spokesman said. However, this was partially offset, and by a much improved fresh mussel market, while the remainder of the seafood division has made good progress and is in line with budget. The European food processing division is performing in line with budget, although in the European fresh produce division, which earns the greater part of its profits in the second half of the financial year, the vegetable markets "remain difficult". North American results are benefiting from cost reductions.

Pannell Kerr Forster survives being the butt of many a joke

Health and Efficiency, the magazine for naturists that has tastefully championed the naked form for over 90 years, has been sold by receivers to a new company after going bust last November.

Fred Satow and Mary Walsh of accountants Pannell Kerr Forster kept the mag going while new buyers were found. A specially formed company titled New Freedom Publishing, backed by Arthur Walker of Chronicle Publications, has bought the firm.

So did the receivers visit any nudist colonies while they were running the mag? "No, we kept our dothes

on at all times. We're char-Richard Knight, a senior administrator on the PKF team, with impeccable logic.

Apparently the previous publishers, Peenhill, lost their shirts on a diversification into magazines about cats and dogs. Mr Walker is majority shareholder of the new com-pany, with editor Helen Ludbrook also a shareholder. That's naked capitalism for

Speaking of clothes, or rather lack of them, on Friday 14 March the organisers of Comic Relief want everyone in the City to join in with "Dress down for Red Nose Day".

Prepare yourselves for Bank of England Governor Eddie George in Bermuda shorts, Hugh Stephenson of Mercury Asset Management in ripped jeans and Gavin Casey of the London Stock Exchange in a body stocking.

All three institutions have promised to dress down. The escapade even has the Lord Mayor of London's approval. so presumably Roger Cork will be leaving the ermine at home for the day.

Each employee of partic-ipating companies will be asked to donate £1 or more and the total raised will be matched by the company. Comic Relief celebrities will be in the City's Broadgate centre at lunchtime to personally receive the money.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Naked capitalism: But chartered accountants do it with their clothes on

Richard Royds of MAM is spearheading this part of the initiative. Models from top agencies will be at the main commuter stations to encourage dressing down, and there is a televised fun run sponsored by Reuters for the more athletic of you.

For an entry form for the latter, fax your name, address, company name and contact details to 0171-542 2151.

I hear David Arculus, who moved from Emap to be Lord Hollick's deputy at United News & Media this week, is still turning out to play league cricket at the age of 50. To be playing any form of representative cricket at half century is admirable. To combine it with his workload is something else.

Salomon Brothers are now asking everyone entering their offices at London's Vic-toria for "proof of identity". A colleague of mine en-tered Salomons's reception

and despite the fact the re-ceptionists had his name, was asked to provide "id - a credit card - something like that".

On the other hand, this being an American investment bank, perhaps they just like checking peoples' credit wor-thiness before they come in.

Beware the 17-day fortnight in Libya, warns Jonathan Biles, chief executive of WorldCover Direct.

Mr Biles wants to "lift the lid on the bizarre world of travel insurance geography".

He says: "Some participants in this market have peculiar ideas about geography and time. For example, many people do not realise that Lunn Poly thinks the Gambia is in Europe - rather worry-ing for one of the UK's

largest travel agents!" He goes on to say: "It is not just travel agents who seem to be confused... buy two-weeks' travel insurance from one high street bank and they seem to think that means 17 days."

Mr Biles adds: "Trying to lure customers into buving Europe-only travel insurance products when Europe is defined so bizarrely can potentially be highly dangerous - most people, like me, wouldn't think that Libya was

a European country... People buying travel insurance should be careful not to rely on the geography described in an atlas."

An American is taking the helm at Albright & Wilson. the international chemicals company floated off by the US conglomerate Tenneco

some two years ago. Paul Rocheleau, 43, currently president of the com-pany's US operations, will be relocating to the UK when he replaces Dr Robin Paul as chief executive of Albright & Wilson in July. The Midlands based group is famous for putting the "tang" into Pepsi and the foam in detergents.

John Willcock

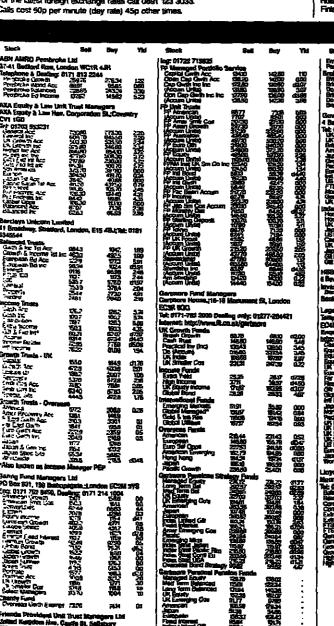


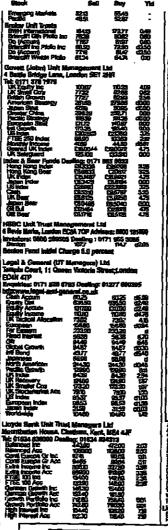
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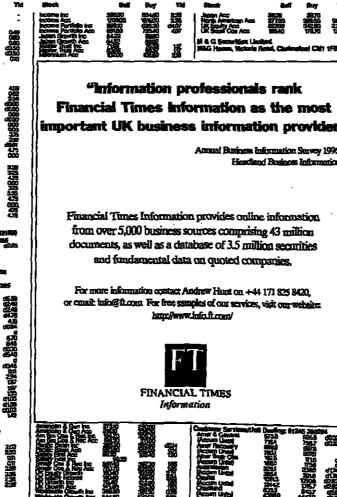
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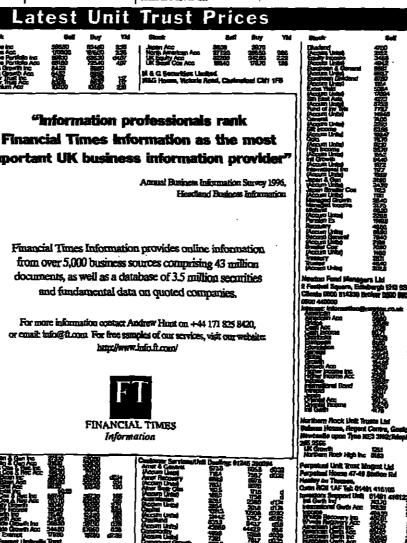
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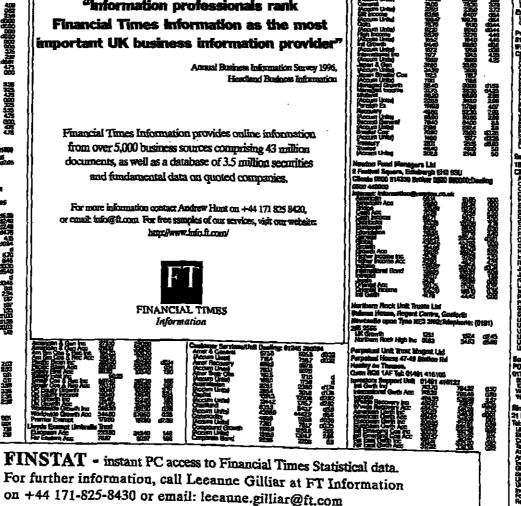
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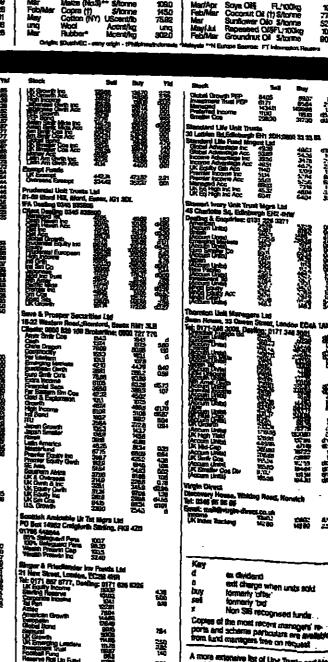












on +44 171-825-8430 or email: lecanne.gilliar@ft.com

Shooting for another Murphy family Triumph

RICHARD EDMONDSON

One of the golden rules of talking in racing circles is to be careful of the company when passing the time with a spot of character assassination. No other sport quite matches the interbred communities of the turf and if you blacken someone in a pub in Newmarket or Lambourn, you can be sure a relative's ear is not far away.

Remember this if you ever have anything tart to disseminate about the Murphy family. Declan, the former jockey turned media analyst, may be the figurehead of the brood, but there are plenty of others out there. The Murphy family home is in Hospital, Co Limerick, which is said to be a small village. That means there can be few other people living in the place. Declan has four brothers and three sisters and, like him, one of his older siblings, Eamon, has won a race at the Cheltenham Festival. A third name, however, may be added to the Cotswolds scroll a week on Thursday.

Pat Murphy, the second eldest of the tribe, should, according to the bookmakers, go close to saddling Shooting Light to vic-tory in the Triumph Hurdle.

Such an eventuality is being

3.00 MISTER ODDY (nap)

GOING: Soft (Soft on hundles course in back straight).

3.30 Denham Hill (nb)

2.00 Get Real 2.30 Kendal Cavalier

These are the premises occupied until his death by Murphy's father-in-law, Richard Holder. and a location which has led to both men being referred to, unfortunately, as Bristol handlers. Neither is Murphy a big gun, but this ignores the fact that he

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Savoy (Kelso 4.20) NB: Kybo's Revenge (Plumpton 3.10)

daughter, have played a part in

one of the Triumph Hurdle's best recent records. "We were involved with Ikdam and Wahiba [both of which ran under Holder's licence], who were first and second in the Triumph, so we've been there." Murphy

sprinters. We've prepared horses for the Stewards' Cup and the Wokingham [old favourites in Bertie Wooster, Jigsaw Boy and Sir Joey] and had them placed. "We've no doubts about our

own ability to produce a horse on the day. It's everyone else and his wife, Louise, Holder's that seems to question that." Pat Murphy, 39 last week, was a jockey of some standing, riding 100 winners before an awday at Taunton in 1988 21,000gns at the July Sales. changed his physique. He broke

his wrist, elbow and shoulder. Intact, though, was the Murphy trait of loquaciousness, which ensured he would not struggle in the communication business of training. These boys have not iust kissed the Blarney Stone, they have had a tempestuous affair with it.

Declan Murphy's omnipresence on our screens is such that said yesterday. "On the Flat it is hard to believe Dolly was the

No confidence in Call

Cheltenham Gold Cup betting yesterday after a workout at Clonnel racecourse satisfied his trainer and jockey, but not the bookmakers' spies.

Ladbrokes pushed him out to 5-1 (from 4-1), with their spokesman, Simon Clare, sayportrayed as a quaint piece of giant-slaying, partly because Murphy supervises just 15 hors
"It's the first time I've sat on him since the Hennessy and he felt a good bit stronger." ing: "There have been doubts he said. "It's the first time I've

NEWBURY

The Links of the course with stiff fences.

Course is SE of lown near A34. Station (service from London, Padrington) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members 514 (Juntors up to 17 years free); Tattersalls 58; Silver Ring 54 (OAPs half price). CAR PABE: Free; Picnic area 54 per car plus 54 per person.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: D Nicholson — 39 winners from 113 runners gives a success ratio of 25.7% and a loss to a £1 level stake of 51.71; N Henderson — 21 winners, 100 numers, 21.7%, £2.57; O Sherwood — 15 winners, 64 numers, 23.4%, £16.51; N Fige — 14 winners, 83 numers, 15.9%, £15.51. ■ LEADING JOCKEYS: J Osborne — 38 winners, 148 rides, 25.7%, £9.40; R Dunwoody — 34 winners, 128 rides, 26.6%, £11.29; A Hagairre — 19 winners, 112 rides, 17%, £517.25; P Holley — 13 winners, 65 rides, 20%, £59.70.

HAINERERD FURST TIME: Permealer (2.30); Monks Soham (3.30); Mediane (visored) (4.00).

(4.00).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Monky Solum (3.30) & Lord Khalice (5.00) have been send 150 miles by G Hubbard from Worlingworth, Suffolk.

2.00 ARDINGTON "NATIONAL HUNT" NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £4,068

PEERS FOLLY (Lord Donoughue) Miss H Knight 7 11 0 _.

7 RELIGIOUS BURN (ING LINES OF BLOCK) MIS I FOURS OF JURIS OF JURI

SETTING: 3-1 Splendid Tayes, 7-2 Set Real, 9-2 Cinton, 10-1 Georgetown, Strong Tel, 12-1 Frys No Fool, 14-1 Military Law, Peers Folly, Relixander, 20-1 Cramps Cartle, News Finels, 33-1 others 1998: Moncasnen 6 11 4 A P NoCoy 13-8 (A Javes 18 ran

FORM GURDE

Splendid Thysie, starting at 16-1, won a N H Plat race easily on this course last March and had GET REAL 15½; lengths back in fourth. The latter, one of the favourities that day, did not help his cause by pulling hand. Splendid Thyrie, a 10-length runner-up to the urbestient Boardroom Shuffle on his hundling bow at Folkestrone, went one better in a large field at Lingfield and took the minor placing against Queen Of Spades at Sandown a fortnight ago. He is penalised only Alb for his with but may find Cer Real too good. Nick Henderson's charge – an insh point-to-point scorer – was bearen 1.3 lengths by the smart French Holly on heavy ground in a bumper here last March, he with have learned from his operang hunding outing when amateur-ridden and fourth to Shadow Leader here three weeks ago, again talong a strong hold and weaterning after leading from the thirst to three fights out. Norman Williamson takes the nide this time. Prys Ne Feel, winner of a Towcester N H Rat Race on his debut last season, will be the better for his first stitempt over timber when fifth to Harbet House at Lingfield. Clinton, unmore-up in the last two of his three races the season – to Legible at Humington and Peace Lord at Falsenham, might do best of the others. Strong Tet, third behind Lady Rebecca in a Chepstow bumper in November on his first appearance since the spring, and Hernietta Kingints Military Law, fourth of 20 to Quin Eagle on his introduction in a Rengton bumper the series month, could go well.

2.30 HAMPSHIRE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m Penalty Value £3,852

Montreum weight: 10st. Time hondcap weights: Country Neeper Sct 12th. Autocol Rambier Sct 2th. BEDTING: 9-4 Cardinal Role, 4-1 Sophie May, 11-2 Rendal Cavadier, 7-1 Lottery Ticket, Top Ja 8-1 Majoris Lagheyr, 10-1 Punescaler, 12-1 Country Recept, 20-1 Purbeck Rambier 1998: Danger Baby 6-10-13 P Holley B-1 (D) Williams) 15 ran

3.00 GEOFFREY GLBEY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £4,429

Minimum weget: 10st Ting hamilting wegget: high Minimum weget: 13st, kings Crem, 9st 13st, BETTING: 5-4 Minimum 2009, 13-8 High Albitude, 11-2 Junes The First, 8-1 Kings Cherry 1998: Misser Oddy 10 11 4 J Cultary 2-1 (J King 7 ran

PENNOLER (27) (ARS Anona Toylori P Hotos 7 10 9...
MAUDIS LEGACY (70) RAIS G Leigh T Forser 8 10 6...
COUNTRY RESPER (18) (9) M Rodii 8 Rail 9 10 0 ...

PURPECK RANGLER (32) (Miss M Lane) G Batting 6 10 0 ..

4.00 Holland House

4.30 Infamous

5.00 Moonlighter

a penny for him in recent weeks. Today's below-par workout only confuses the picture further. But the gelding's jockey, Conor O'Dwyer, said he was satisfied with the horse, two weeks before he defends the Gold Cup. "I'm happy enough that the horse is in good form,

less than three years since Arcot threw him into the Grim Reaper's parlour at Haydock, but, a near-death experience later, he was soon back to his finest chattering class. Pat, too, seems to require respiration as regularly as a sperm whale, but there is more to him than verbiage. He picked out Shooting Light, whose only credential was a win at Hamilton, for

At first, a return on the investment looked unlikely. "About three weeks after we bought him I rang the owner to tell him the horse was showing us absolutely nothing," Murphy said. "He was working worse than a selling plater. Even then though I got the impression he was working just enough for the horse he was working with."

The racecourse has had the awakening properties of a freezing shower on Shooting Light and he goes to battle after two hurdling wins and single defeat, when conceding chunks of weight. Victory in the Triumph Hurdle might see an unusual use for the race's prize. Murphy smoked cigarettes endlessly as a jockey but has since changed to a pipe. "I started smoking it at home because I thought it gave me an air of authority," he said. A Cheltenham trophy might be the most memorable receptacle in which to tap out his dottle.

PORM GUIDE

MESTER ODDY goes off a rating 1.4th higher than when justifying favouritism in the corresponding event a year ago but can still stage a reposat coming here in cracking form with three wins and a second from four races this term. Mister Oddy, who goes off the same mark as when winning under a 5th penalty at Sandown a formight ago, is 6th worse in with High Alliftude, who finished a length-and-a-quarter-numer-up to him over course and distance three weeks back — the unreliable James The First taited off when putied up after winning at Newton Abbot the time before — but can confirm superiotty. High Alliftude was a Safer four out, though holding every chance, on his responsible but they were here before that. Kings Cherry has finished numer-up in his last two races but they were in lesser company at Plumpton and Humington. Selection: MISTER ODDY in lesser company at Plumpion and Humington.

3.30 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE/JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION HANDICAP HURDLE QUALIFIER (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 5f £3,288 0-13162 LAKE KARBA (74) (BF) (The Lake Karba Pannership) P Nicrolis 6 11 13 ... L Commins (7) 2462P-4 URON V (FR) (22) 64s E M Boustpot-Payne) C Wall 11 11 8 ... K Garde 01-330 THE TOUSENER (21) (20) (T & J Vestey) J Farritaine 6 11 3 ... J Cabonne 0-4FFFE (MOP'S GROSS (128) NV Hampy A J Wisson 8 11 3 ... A Thouston 1-32323 LORD MCMURROUGH (140) U Northel J Neetle 7 11 2 ... R Persont 1.32223 LORD MICHAURROUGH (LA) () Newfel) Newfel 7 11 2

06-2421 DENHAM HILL (11) () E Brown C Merm 8 11 2 (6eg)
1/FP ARABAM SULTAN (11) (D) (NAS Eisen Harris M Pier 10 11 0

U012-P THE INEDICANS GONE (13) (M R Contel D Geogley 9 10 11

3-4601 DATE ROSE (14) (CD) (Ms. John Reders) M Stepper 7 10 10

50162-0 CARMEL'S JOY (74) (Ms. Alson Gambiel T Geogle 8 10 9

U32-65 MONES SOHAMI (3) (G A Hubbard) G Hubbard 9 10 7

100-4F5 HOODED SHAW (13) (C M Harryl N Handeson 6 10 6

- 12 declared BETUNE: 5-2 Dunham Hil, 9-2 Casts Rose, 11-2 Lord McMarcough, 7-1 Late Karths, 9-1 The Telseuch
10-1 Hooded Karak, Uron V, 12-1 Arabian Spitzer, Monits Soham, 14-1 Carmet's Joy, The Mexicons Bone, 20-1 Kno's Cross 1998: Yes Man 7 10 8 J F Triley 11-2 (Afres H Knogh) 12 ran

CATIS ROSE shows her best form towerds the spring and landed the Hoechst Panacur Mares Final on heavy going over course and distance last March. She bounced back to her best last time when short-heading market leader Dantes Cavalier at Sandown and can overcome the 7th his. Desham Hill also struck form when coming home by 14 lengths at Fortwell (2m0/11)/yds) and had earlier inished three lengths behind smart notice Rad Blozer at Leicester. He could give Calls Rose plenty to do. Lord McMurrough won at Taurton and Diester sex season with cut in the ground, and has been pleased in all five starts so for this season, the losest when a 12-length third to Kintaw at Felenham. He is 2to lower today. Laice Kantba, who went in at Chepstow in October on his reoppearance and at Newton Abbot (heavy) the following month, has not raced since a second to Deanots Bearro on the lettler track in December but should be fit enough.

4.00 PETER HAMER MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 3m Penalty Value £1,576

1 1/1511-U HOLLAND HOUSE (16) (D) (BF) (E Angra) P Charmes 11 12 5 _

– 6 deciment – ETTENS: 8-13 Holland House, 3-1 Miss Millerook, 9-2 Clobraches Lud, 12-1 Medians, Principle

1998: Colonial Kelly & 11 6 Mr P Hacking 11-8 (Mrs D Grissell) 6 fan

FORM GUIDE
HOLLAND HOUSE has a good record in points and has landed hunter chases at Lingfield, HOLLAND HOUSE has a good record in points and has landed hurter chases at Linghold, Chepsion and at Chellenham last term — mastering Coome His a head at the Weish rack. A hotpot at Linghield on his reappearance 1.6 days ago in the same race he won by 20 lengths first time up last season. Holland House was in third place when he stumbled and unseated three fences out behind Vicoritis De Valmont on his reappearance and is well worth another chance. Miss Bibliothook looks the right one for the forecast, having won in the style of an improved mare when 25 rengths too good for yesterday's Ludiow scorer Cape Cottage at Hereford on her return.

4.30 HighClere Hurdle (CLASS C) £5,000 added 4Y0 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,652 00 ALPRIE JOKER (15) (The Cobra Parmership) P Hoobs 11 () ... CNSKY (P | Ormel G Thomes 11 0 ... 4392 CIRCUS STAR (17) (the Ringmasters) D Nicholson 11 0... CLASSIC VICTORY (Desse Brookstock Pic) | Carrobell 11

- 3.5 Octobred - SETTING: 5-2 Information, 3-1 Ginger Fox, 4-1 Chross Star, 8-1 Tintcher, Ta 14-1 Timidjar, Witherhay, Zaisun, 20-1 others 1996: Hatta Bregz 4 10 6 R Johnson 3-1 (D Nicholson) 8 ron GINGER FOX, trained by Henry Ceol when third to St. Leger winner Shantou on his debut at Sendown in May and successful at Chester in September, can make a winning start to his hundling career. He changed hands for 75,000gris at the Auturn Sales. Inflamous, who went to Roland O'Sullvart's stables for 24,000gris at that same sale, won at Leicaster (soft) last March when trained by Paul Cole. He chaped with promise when an eight-length third behind Red Rays on his hundling debut at Windorn - Sality Gitt and Histor both unpload—and is the obvious threat with improvement on the cards.

Selection: GINGER FOX 1990: Danger Bably 6 10 13 9 Holley B-1 (D I, Williams) 15 ran

FORM CHIDDE

CARDINAL RULE keeps improving and can complete a four-timer even though coung off a
23th higher mark than when he began his working run at Plumblon last month. Venetta
Williams's runner went no to win bace at Heralord, making ventually all to beer Super Ratchart
11 days ago off a rating 9th lower than todays. Lottery Trelets is up against it conceding
Cardinal Rule 12th. Tom George's charge did not do bady on his chasing bow when bearen two and a half lengths by Golderswift over course and distance in November but blundered and unsented early at Southwell on his only start since when drifting from 5-2 to
twee those odds. He might need this orong, Toughest mad may be Sophie Riley, a Windsor faller last time but successful at Lingfield before that, running on strongly after taking
command three incres out to beat. Societhect four lengths. Societhed did not let that
form down when short-headed by Red Branch, gwing the winner 24th. Kendel Cavaller,
who won on the heavy at Newton Abbot in November and way, beater four lengths by Martners
Merror at Lingfield the following month, is not out of it despite being will beater in this sist bio outings. Pennicaler has not shown enjiting in three races over fences but looks the
type to make a chaser and sports first-time blinkers.

Selection: CARDINAL RULE

5.00 WHATCOMBE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 5f £2,979

- 7 necessed BETTING: 5-2 Moonlighter, 3-1 Findey Wood, 4-1 Captain Jack, 5-1 Leed Whitlee, 13-2 Stormy Pagenge, 8-1 Underhable Bouer, 18-1 Lenem's Treasure
1996: Funtasc: Floet 4 10 3 S Curran 9-2 (Miss / S Doyle) 11 ran

FORM GUIDE TORRMY PASSAGE can dely his hefly weight with Glenn Torrney taking off 3th. He stormed Seturday. There is better still to come from Flaudey Wead and he should make a book put to supplement his Plumpton victory of a 51b higher mark. Capitalin Jack goes off the same mark as when justifying thouritism at Kempton but the opposition was weak. Lerd Rhalice has not had much racing and sid not do body when an eight-length numer-up to Lough Tully on softish ground at Sandown. Moonlighter was the only one to make a race of it with hot thouride Halona at Hereford, going down a couple of lengths and the stigitaly longer top should suit.

Selection: STORMY PASSAGE **HYPERION**

2.20 Call Me Black 2.50 Clash Of Swords 3.20 Celidh Boy 3.50 Marello 4.20 Royal Jester 4.50 Palacegate King

■ Undulating course, Run-in of two furlongs,
■ Course is N of town off B6461. ADMISSION: Chib £10; Talessalls 57 (OAPs \$4, under-16s free). CAR PARK: Pree

BLINKERED FIRST TIME None

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG DISTANCE EXIMINEES: Star Selection (2.50) has been sent 234 miles by J Mackie from Church Broughton, Derbyshire.

2.20 CYRIL ALEXANDER MEMORIAL MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 1f PPP-063 DESPERATE DAYS (17) F Keby 8 11 5 LICCOFS FINE TUNE (6) Mrs S Brachume 7 11 5.... QUAD KALAND (14) B Mactagant 7 11 5 D4/PPP LYPORD CAY (13) J Bestey 7 11, 5 ... SAFETY FACTOR J H Johnson 9 11 5. _189 2240- TWO FOR ONE (420) Mass LV Russell 8 11.5..... - 11 declared -

ty Factor, 8-1 Two For One, 14-1 Millies lange, 20-1 Desperate Days

2.50 PENNY FARTHING RESTAURANT HURDLE JS KNAVE (18) P Montesh 10 12 P PRINCIPAL 807 (28) 7 Emergeon 10 12 ANNA'S SEM Mrs S Bractoure 10 7

- 7 declared -BETTMR: 5-6 Clast Of Sucris, 11-8 Cry Baby, 8-1 Knave, 10-1 Principal Boy, 12-1 Anther's Gem, 16-1 Jungle Presh, 20-1 Political Mandato

3.20 M & J BALLANTYNE AMATEURS H'CAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m 4f CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m 4f

P11-PCP WHAVE FETTLE (20) (30) 6 Ridwick 12 12 0.0-put A Ogdon (7)

P2 P20040 CHASE (CD) (500) 6 Ridwick 12 12 0.0-put A Ogdon (7)

R21-IDP PMK (8N 120) [CD) 14 Ridwick 12 11 11.1 Mr R Hale (8) V

R32-ISP PMK (8N 120) [CD) 15 Ridwick 12 11 11.1 Mr R Hale (8) V

R33-ISD HEAMENT CHIZEN (20) 1 Bracks 9 110 0. Mr P Canges

A12123 SEEDING COID (22) (2) 1 Bracks 9 110 0. Mr P Canges

SEEDING COID (22) (2) 1 Bracks 9 110 0. Mr P C Storey (8)

R33466 WHITE DIAMOND (42) Mrs I V Rosel 9 10 0. Mr D Beld (7)

- 8 declared
Minimum weight IDE, True handlow weights Audicious Captain St IDIO, Of

The Bird Set (8), White Observed St Id.

SETTURE 9.4 Seeking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinking Gold, 100-50 Cellich log, 6-1 Off Tee-Bro, 11-2 Indicious
Captain, 7-4 Prinkin

3.50 HENNESSY SERIES FINAL NOVICE HUR-DLE (CLASS B) £20,000 added 2m 2f 307.12P ASK THE BUILER (59) C Roche 6 11 10 R Neghes 367.111 EMPARELES WAY (50) Mrs M Pauchy 5 11 10 Mr 5 Severs 8 2122 DAMA PARTY (14) (5) Mrs 5 Smith 5 11 3 Richard Guest PACELO MAPLE RAY (22) B Ellison 8 11 3 Richard Guest 115 Maple Ray (22) B Ellison 8 11 3 Richard Guest PACELO MAPLE RAY (22) B Ellison 8 11 3 Richard Guest PACELO MAPLE RAY (22) B Ellison 8 11 3 Richard Guest PACELO MAPLE RAY (23) B Brown 5 11 3 Richard Guest PACELO MAPLE RAY (23) B Brown 5 11 3 Richard Guest PACELO MAPLE RAY (23) B Brown 5 11 3 Richard Guest PACELO MAPLE RAY (24) B Brown 5 11 3 Richard Guest PACELO MAPLE RAY (25) B Brown 5 11 3 Richard Guest PACELO MAPLE RAY (25) B Brown 5 11 3 Richard Guest PACELO MAPLE RAY (25) B Brown 5 11 3 Richard Guest PACELO MAPLE RAY (25) B BROWN 5 11 10 Mrs 5 11 3 Richard Guest PACELO MAPLE RAY (25) B BROWN 5 11 3 RICHARD GUEST PACELO MAPLE RAY (25) B RICHARD GUEST PACELO MAPLE RAY (25) B RICHARD GUEST PACELO MAPLE RAY (25) B RICHARD GUEST PACELO M

to the state of th 4.20 ALBA COUNTRY FOODS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 3m 1f

434330°. LETTE GENERAL, (249, pp.) D. McCharlett 14. 12.12. Mar 7 Soutt (7 1271122: NOVAL, ESTIER, (365) (20) C. Stoney 13. 12. 12. July G. Stoney 15. PPPP734 FORDESTOWN (27) J. Mesander S. 12. 8. ... Mar 1. Alexander 1 11477-P. LETTE WESTLOCK, (14) Mar D. Ottom 13. 12. B. July V. Socieson (5.

4.50 SHIP HOTEL EYEMOUTH HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS D) £4,000 anglest 2m 2r

15-112-0 ARMON ATR (42) (CD) P Moreith 9 12 0.C McContack (7)

10-4833 PMANGSHEE KING (28) (C) (E) A Whitens 8 11 12 ... S Taylor (S)

3333-41 BIGLESHMAN (22) (C) S Mackagart 8 11 6 ... B Storry

10-0055 BATTON (40) G Richerts 5 11 3 ... A Dobbin

312513 RED OF VISION (107) (EF) Mrs A Switzerk 7 11 0.1 Supple

32-5045 COMMON SOURDO (27) BESIGN (61) 3 ... P Neven

322/ PESTHMA FUNCY (1,369) (C) S Mickagart 10 10 3 G Lee (3)

3052/32 PMRSM (20) (EF) M Todrurter 8 10 3 ... P Curborny

04-5533 GMLEISERHAS (ES) Lings 9 10 0 ... R Supple

5 declared
9 declared
FTRMS 5-2 Relocatete line; 4.1 Partet 9-2 Batton, 6.1 Institutionium.

— 9 necessed — BETTHO: 5-2 Pelacegiste King, 4-1 Pariet, 5-2 Eletion, 6-1 Ingletonian, 6-1 Refleiestale, 9-1 Common Scaud, 10-1 Field Of Vasion, Aragon Apr. 20-1 Feetivel Pancy

HYPERION

2.10 Rhythm And Blues 2.40 Indian Arrow 3.10 Roskeen Bridge 3.40 Normarange 4.10 Golden Opal 4.40 Bula Vogue GOING: Heavy.

hill fence in back straight. Uphill run-in of 200yds. till fence in back saraign. Open run-in in accords.

Course is off A275 S of Haywards Heath. Plumpton station ad-loins course. ADMISSION: Members \$12; Tattersalls \$5; Course \$4. CAR PARK: \$4 (centre of course) & \$1.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DESTANCE EUNNERS: Apollono (2.10) & Mister Risico (3.10) have been sem 186 miles by R Lee from Byton, Simopshire. 2.10 CROWBOROUGH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1f

FO APOLLONO (23) R Lee 5 11 2 ______ W Mendod 2 BRIO THE WEB (11) Mrs Mento Jones 6 11 2 __Dorek Byrod 271 MAY SUNSET (935) C Egeton 7 11 2 ______ J A McCardi 03-405 RHYTHM AND BLUES (12) R Bucker 7 11 2 _____ B Power 3 T080KA (21) D Gandolfo 5 11 2 CE (29) P Hundry 4 10 3 ___ W McCartana - 9 declared -BETTING: 15-8 Torks, 11-4 Rhythm And Blace, 100-90 lato The Web, 13-2

May Surset, 12-1 One in The Rye, 14-1 Contract Bridge, 25-1 Apollono, 33-1 others

2.40 PLUMPTON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m PO65/10 PHOWAN ARROW (NEZ) (21) (D) (RF) M Pipe 9 11 8...C Shauda 02/3425 COURT MASTER (29) R Bucker 9 11 2. ROADRONGER Mrs L Richards 7 11 2 ..

BETTOR: 10-11 |adien Arrow, 15-8 Court Master, 5-1 Perbeck Cornilor, 25-1 East So Stor, Roadwarner, 33-1 Perceptia

3.10 WIVELSFIELD NOVICE HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 110yds

– 7 decimed – Minimum weight: 10st. Rosieen Bridge Sxt 12b, lybo's Revenge Sxt 7b. HETINK: 5-2 Denostillyomicop, 100-30 Alexi Solt II. 7-2 Blacked Storm, 13-2 Milder Binke, 7-1 Rosiseen Bridge, 8-1 Minor Key, 14-1 Nybo's Revenge 3.40 COOKSERIDGE MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 3m 1f 110yds

50 CLONTOURA (13) Wellers 9 11 5 B Powell
0-POP DECIFIA (27) S Exte 7 11 5 B Powell
0-POP DECIFIA (27) S Exte 7 11 5 B Powell
0-POP DECIFIA (27) S Exte 7 11 5 B Powell
0-POP DECIFIA (27) S Exte 7 11 5 B Powell
0-POP DECIFIA (27) S Exte 7 11 5 B Powell
0-POP COLLESTON BUNDE (14) D Pot 10 11 5 B POP Powell
0-POP PORTYTHO DEE (7) N Smith 7 11 0 W McPetton
0-POP PORTYTHO DEE (7) N Smith 7 11 0 W McPetton
1-POP POWELS PET (18) J Needle 10 11 0 W McPetton
1-POP POWELS PET (18) J Needle 10 11 0 W McPetton
1-POP POWELS PET (18) J Needle 10 11 0 W McPetton
1-POP W McPet

4.10 CHAILEY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 5f

PORTSLADE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m 4f

Minimum weight: Time harminap weight: Quiet Moments Set 8th. BETTING: 9-4 Mayls-Mayls, 11-4 Bada Vagne, 4-1 Tonys Gift, 13-2 St Ville, 10-1 Ving's Gold, 14-1 Script, 16-1 Quiet Moments.

SOUTHWELL HYPERION

2.15 Maradi 2.45 El Nido 3.15 Daawe 3.45 Carburton 4.15 Sarasi 4.45 Maftun esand surface; left-hand sharp, oval course

Course is firs W of Newerk, Rollesson Junction adjoins course ADMISSION: Clinb £12; Tattersalis £6 (OAP members of course's Diamond Club £4, under-16s free). GAE PARE: Free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Royence (4.45).
WINNERS IN THE LAST BEVEN DAYS: Pleasure Trick (3.45)
won here on Monday.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: I Don't Think So (2.45) has
been som 210 miles by T Hlad from Lymon, Devon. 2.15 SKEGBY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m 4f

AGGOD-8 APICULATE CLAS S R Bowing 9 0 ... 4600-55 GOOD DAY (4) C Thorston 9 0 633330- MARADI (141) M Bell 9 0____

RETIRIO: 4.9 Maradi, 11.2 Wo 2.45 NORMANTON CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,100 added 1m 6f

0-41450 UNDAWATERSCHBADINA (11) (C) M Bleby 5 8 12 541340 EL MEDO (1.4) (CD) D Chapmen 9 8 11 ______ X Pellon 1
202300 AMSSTOP (289 (G) J L Eye 5 8 10 ______ X Pellon 1
202300 AMSSTOP (289 (G) J L Eye 5 8 10 ______ X Cultuma 3
01.16 WRED WIRHOUT BED (1.4) M Soversby 88 10 ___ Planes (5) 7 8
01500 CULRARIA (502) T Calmed 6 8 8 _____ W Ryan 4
00005-0 SHE'S DAVICES (21) DON Entro Incisa 4 8 2 ____ Rea Telahir 6 8

– 9 declared – ESTEMP: 11-10 El Millo, 3-1 Anistop, 6-1 Grand Chi, 10-1 Underspiese 12-1 World Without End, Cultaile, 20-1 Dutch Dyane, 33-1 others 3.15 MARKHAM MOOR HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,500 added 6f

3.45 RETFORD HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m

30(35-1 MN071Y HILL (21) (0) R Caggs 5 9 11 _____ D Holland 13 11/3000 CARBURERUN (83) J Glover 4 9 9 _____ 6 Carter 6 046135 SUEZ TORNADO (205) (0) E Alston 4 9 9 ____ K Fallon 9 31-1415 ROYAL CARLTON (18) (D) 6 L Moore 5 9 3 ... S Windowsth 12 9 230-005 TEA PARTY (8) (D) K Cunnington-Brown 4 9 3W R 10 041-612 CHADLERSK LANE (127) (CD) (BP) A Mutholand 5 8 13.....

BETTING: 5-1 Rambe Weltzer, 11-2 Carburton, 6-1 Knotty Hill Re ton, 7-1 Piessure Trick, 8-1 Kingship Boy, 10-1 Mazzrek, Candeigh Line, 12-1 Georgie John, Roar On Tour, 18-1 Suzz Tornada, 20-1 Tee Party,

4.15 RUFFORD SELLING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,400 added 1m

2100-11 SAMASI (14) (CD) M Carmidro 5 9 4 Qualificación ALEZ CYRANIO (18) O O'Nell 6 8 12 Qualificación DESECT INNADER (11) (CD) D Crapman 6 8 12 A Cala

BETTING: 4-5 Saguel, 190-30 Desert Invader, 9-1 Northern Fan, Sand-moor Desire, 16-1 Alicz Cyrono, Fing Fan, 20-1 Major Mouse

4.45 TUXFORD HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 1m 4f 1 00421U- COMPASS PORTER (79) (C) / Eustace 4 9 11

0-32223 MAFTUN (USA) (18) (D) (SF) G M Moore 5 9 3 ...D Hot 2-05021 CAROL AGAIN (11) (CD) N Bycsoft 5 8 7 (Sec) ____ J Qulan 12

14 0/0050/ HORTHERN CHARMER (493) E Alson 5 7 10_J Rowle (7) 14

- 14 declared -- 14 secures -Minimum weight; 7st 10th. True handicap weights: Inovar 7st 8th. Roystoc 7st 7th, Mr Morkery 7st 7th. Northern Charmor 7st 7th. mCA, 5-1 African Part, 6-1 Relodeer Quest, Carol Adale 7-1 Mr Morierty, 8-1 Mattum, 10-1 Compass Pointer, 12-1 Kilon Girl, 14-1 Royal Accision, Another Quarter, 16-1 No Salantesion.

RACING RESULTS

WETHERBY 2.20: 1. GODS SQUAD (R Supplet 4-1; 2. Good Vibes 4-5 fav; 3. Banker Count 33-1. 11 ma. 174, 9. (I Macket, Tota: £6.50; £1.20, £1.30, £10.70, Dual Forecas: 1. HIVER UNSHION & Carrent 4-11 fav; 2. Tico Gold 5-2; 3. Allent 20-1, 3 ran. 13. CSI, U H JOTTSON: Tebe: £1.40. DF: £1.80. CSF: £1.52. 3.20; 1. YOUNG KENNY (R Supple) 13-8;

mascennary 9-1.7 ran. 4. dis., Mrs. S. Synto., Tota: 55. 20; £2.40; £1.10; Dr. F. F. O. C. CSP. £13.31. Treast £62.34. Tro: £19.70; NRs: Enmal Oty. Most Trai. Placepot: £32.70. Quedpot: £15.00. Place 6: £27.50. Place 5: £19.28. HUNTINGDON 2.00: 1. MELLOW MASTER IR Farranti 20-1; 2. Keitham Tarm 12-1: 3. Bentleefilp Bruce 11-2, 15 ran. 13-8 lav Bella Sedona 2. Stuart Approach 8-1; 3. Military Academy 11-10 tov. 7 ram, 16, nl. (P Beaumont). Tokes 12-40; £1-10, £2-30. DF: £9-50. CSF:

Other E2.AO; £1.10, £2.3O. DF: £9.5O. CSF: 13.48.

3.50: 1. POLITICAL TOWER (A DODOR) 6-5 rote: £38.90; £8.30, £3.10, £2.30. DF: £3.78. Regel Receptor 2-1: 3. Cross Carbon 11.4 S ran. 6, £3. (R Noor), Tote: £2.10

FF: £1.10, CSF: £3.37.

4.20. 1. COVERDALE LANE (Rochard Market Street 11.1 S ran. 5, £2. (Mrs M Reveley, Sell-10.1), By £2.1 9 ran. 3-1 g fav D'Arday Street 11.1 5 ran. 5, £2. (Mrs M Reveley, Sell-10.1), CSF: £1.00.8. DF: £1.10, CSF: £3.37.
4.20. 1. COVERDALE LANE (Record Guero 3 1; fav; 2. Gele Pignon 8 1; 3. Gentor): Boy 12 1. 9 ran. 3 1; fav D'Artlay Street R. (Mrs S Scratt). Tota: £4.90;

£25.04, Treast: £230.35, Trio: £136.70. 4.50: 1, INTO THE WEST (Richard Guest)

11-2; 2. Enchanted Cottage 11-8 tor: 3. Bassenhally 9-1. 7 ran. 4. dist. (Nrs. S.Smith). far; 2, Benny Will Lad 25-1, 3, Saftrotino 7-2, 15 ran, Hd. 3V., (D Nebolson, Temple Gunting), Totte: £2.10; £1.50, £5.00, £1.40, DF: £29.50, CSF: £38.10, Tro: £39.30. 4.00: 1. TEINEIN (N Williamson) 6-5: 2. High Learle 7-1: 3. Arier Mole 11-10 fav. 6 rat. 1%, dist. (I Forster, Dourdont, Total £180; £1.40, £1.70, DF: £8.90, CSF-£8.76.

£3.10. DF; £29.50. CSF; £64.84. Treast: £482.23. Tre: £180.90. NR: Linkside, What fax: 2. Botable Baron 14-1; 3. Blazer Mortniere 7-1, 7 ran. 3, 1%, 18 Balley, Up-per Lambourni, Tote: £1.80; £1.40, £4.40, DF: £10.40, CSF: £1.324, 3.30: 1 FLYMS GLIGGER IN MESSEY) evers Jim Wants.
Placepot: £67,50. Quadpot: £4,90.
Place 6: £36,52. Place 5: £5,78. LUDIOW

.76. 4.30: 1. BITOFAMDAIP (MrP Hacieng) 7-2 4.30: 1. BTOFAMEAIP (Mr PHoding) 7-2 co lay; 2. Ask Antony 7-2 co fay; 3. Broad Steame 7-2 co fay; 3. Broad Steamer 7-2 co fay; 3. Broad Steamer 12-50, E1-80, NR; Arrason Lily, Sant Bene*t. 5.00: 1. RED UGHTER 10 Steamer 12-1; 2. Britsfand 9-2; 3. TRIY 9-1, 1.2 ran. 4-1 fay Dockmaster (4th), 6. 3½. U Old, Wroughton. Toker \$20.70: £3.30, £1-50, 13-2: 2. Operatio 13-2: 3. First Crack 7-1.
15 ran. 5-1 pt two Desert Force, Mass Manguid.
24, 3. (1 Thorston Jones, Upper Lambourn), Toter 199.07: 53-20, 62-40, 51-80.
DF: 1552-70. CSP: E44-82, Tricost: £291-78.
Teer 5100-519. 4.10: 1. CAPE COTTAGE (A+ A Philes) 7-2:

2.10: 1. GREEN GREEN DESERT (D Brdg-water) 9-1; 2. High in The Clouds 6-5 fav. 3. Fasti 33-1. 18 rat. 37, ght hd. (D Sher-wood, Unper Lamboum). Tota: £9.70; £2.20, 2. Fox Pointer 5-2: 3. Inch Maid: 10-11 (av. 8 ran. 3, %. (0 Caro. Mairnesbury). Tota: £5.30; £1.10, £1.60, £1.10. DF: £11.80. CSF: £12.23. **SP: 1.10 Fill 374, Brit Ind. (O Sherwood, Unper Lambourn), Toke: £9.70; £2.20, £1.10, £1.10, £7.10 (DF: £9.30, CSF: £18.34, Inc. £182.90, **2.40: 1. TELLICHERRY U Culoy, 11.8 fax; 2. Cools Hill 7: 43, Jackin 3-1, 10 ran, N., 13, (Mas. H krught, Wantage), Totae: £2.20; £1.10, £1.50, £1.40, DF: £3.10, CSF: £3.90, NR: Sorne Waless, £1.00; £1.90, £1.40, DF: £3.10, CSF: £3.90, NR: Sorne Waless, £1.00; £1.90, £1.40, DF: £3.10, CSF: £3.90, NR: Sorne Waless, £1.00; £1.80 (SP. 11.8 ENVENUP) (S Michell) 9-2; 2. Good Lord Marphy 9-1; 3. Es 60 100-30, 18 man, 11-8 fax Ack in Time, 10. **1, K Bailey, Upper Lambourn), Toke: £5.90; £2.00, £3.40, £2.20, DF: £8.80, £2.20, £1.35, Inc. £1.30, £2.20, DF: £8.80, £2.20, DF: £8.80, £8

3.40: 1. JACKS'N FLINT (X Axpund Place 6: £4.70, Place 5: £4.7

I INGFER D 2.25: 1. AS-IS (K Skell) 5-2: 2. State Of old 11-4; 3. Neon Delon 20-1. 15-9. N Leg Beforum (Ath). 2, 5. [M Johnston). fav Leg Beforum (Ath). 2, 5, (M Johnston). Tota: £2.90; £1.30, £1.40, Dr. £3.00, CSF:

2.55: 1. RAMSEY HOPE (K fellon) 10-1; 2.55: 1. RAMSENT NOFE (N reson) 10-1; 2. Lord Sky 11-2; 3. Sir Teslow 13-2, 7 ren. 11-4 for Bowciffs Grange (4th), 1½, sht.hd. (C Fairmers,). Totar £12-50; £3.40, £1.80. DF: £15.00, CSP. £55.20. 2.35: 1. BARBASON (Cardy Monts) 11-2; SON (Candy Monta) 11-2: Brett Doyle, aboard the Dhruba 3.26: 1. BARDAROUM NAMED IN THREE 3.1-6.
2. Densellio 7.4 tay, 3. Antiba's Continuon 8-1.
8 mm. 1/4, nk. (6 1. Moore), Tota: £7.00;
£2.00, £1.50, £2.50 DF: £7.00, CSF:
£14.93, Tricest: £72.91. Trice £27.50, NR:
lobust Dense.

3.55: 1. RURANG STAG (A Clark) 8-11 tor, 2. Areand Fore Alles 16-1; 3. Seler Dewn 14-1. 6 ran. 7, 2. (P Mathelli, Tobe: 51.40; £1.10. £3.10. DF. £8.20. CSF.

n Ellengowan. 4.55; 1. EASTLEIGH (J. Quinn) 16-1; 2. £3.20, £1.10, £2.50, DF: £13.40, CSF: £55.08, Tricast: £127.57, Tric: £23.10, NR:

Amnesty Bay. Placepot: £93.90, Quadr

Selvaratnam-trained Tropicool. made all to win the Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum Challenge in record time at Nad Al Sheba Dubai, yesterday. The Saced bin Surcor-trained Tamayaz, ridden by Frankie Dettori, finished second with the Jason Weaver-ridden, Mark Johnston-trained Gothenbarg third.

British five on a high for **Paris Show**

Equestrianism GENEVIEVE MURPHY

There will be no shortage of confidence among the top five British riders when they compete in the Paris Horse Show. which begins today at the Palais Omnisports de Bercy.

Four of them - John and Michael Whitaker, Geoff Billington and Robert Smith - filled the top four places in the Volvo World Cup qualifier at Bologna on Sunday. Nick Skelton, who missed the Italian show, was runner-up in the Bordeaux qualifier the previous weekend when

beaten by just 0.05sec. The Whitaker brothers have already qualified for the World Cup final, which will be held in Gothenburg from 30 April to 4 May. Smith, Billington and Skelton will be hoping to make their places secure in the Paris qualifier on Sunday. If they all get through, Britain will have the biggest contingent of finalists since 1991 when John

Whitaker won on Milton. Smith had not given the final much thought until gaining 20 qualifying points with his victory at Olympia in December on Tees Hanauer. The 35-yearold son of Harvey Smith now needs about six further points, which he would collect for finishing 11th or higher in Paris.

Smith will probably rely on Tees Hanauer, now 17, on Sunday. He is anxious to avoid putting pressure on Big Time, another of his mounts for Paris, but the eight-year-old dark bay stallion looks a wonderfully exciting prospect for the future.

Britain's reliance on older horses may at last be coming to an end. Virtual Village It's Otto, with whom Billington finished sixth in last year's Olympics, is still only 11; Skelton has a splendid partner in 10year-old Zalza and Michael Whitaker's nine-year-old Ashley has shown impressive form.

These horses will all be in action in Paris, along with the chunky 10-year-old Barry Bug who is seen as a possible replacement for John Whitaker's elderly stars, Grannusch and Welham.

Bug, who used to be ridden by Whitaker's 16-year-old daughter Louise, still has plenty to prove. - but he has made headway in the right direction, finishing third in competitive classes in both Bordeaux and Bologna Whitaker is, however, expected to ride the more experienced 17year-old Welham on Sunday.

POINT-TO-POINT MEETINGS IN MARCH SATI ANDAY 1: PERILECET At Distriction CHID.

SATIATION Y: BEAUTOH AT DEMINISTRO, CHIP DINGFOLD, L'PELL & COWDRAY AT PARHAM. EAST DEVON AS CHIMT & DENBIGH AT EXTON HAIL, TYNEDALE AT CONDRIGH. SURDAY 2: BURTON AT MARKET RESON, SOUTH DURHAM AT Greet Stainton, SOUTH HEREFORD AT CAMPANDES.

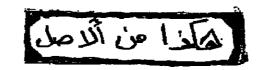
HEREFORD at Commons, SOUTH MIDLANDS AREA at Mollagton. SATURDAY 8: AVON VALE at Barbury Cas-ARCA BE SATURDAY S: AVON VALE AT BENDEY STATURDAY S: AVON VALE AT BENDEY STATURDAY STA WENT at Charm Park, NORTH LEDBURY at Uptoo-ca-Severn, NORTH NORTOLK at High-am, OAKLEY at Newton Bromswold, SOUTH CORNWALL at Great Trethew, SOUTH EAST HUNTS CLUB at Charing, TANATSIDE at Ey-

SURDAY 9: BLANKNEY AT SOUTHWEIT, STAFF COLLEGE & RMA DRAG AT TWESSIGOMM. SATURDAY 15: DUNSTON AT AMPTON, HOLD-ERNESS at Deiton Park, NEW FOREST BUCKHOUNDS at Larkhill, QUANTOCK at BUCKHOUNUS AT LARKHIN, QUANTIDICK AT COTHASIONE WESTERN AT WAGEBURGE, SUNDAY 18: CARMARTHENSHIRE AT EW LOW, COTTESMORE AT GARTHONSHIRE AT EWALD, COTTESMORE AT GARTHON, DART VALE & HALDON AT Othery SK Mary, EGILINTON AT LA-MATH, ROSS HARRIERS AT GARTHONS, WEST STREET/TICKHAM at Detline SATURDAY 22: CAMBRIDGESHIRE at Horse-

heath, CRAWLEY & HORSHAM at Parhem. DURE OF BUCCLEUCH'S at Frian's Haugh, HURWORTH at Hutton Rudby, LAMERTON of Kinvorthy, LLANGIBBY at Howles, MENOIP FARMERS at Castle Of Constart, ALE OF THE WHITE PURSE at Statilington, WILTON at Bad-SUNDAY 23: MID DEVON At Clyst St Mary,

Brocklesby Park., TURDAY 29: ASHFORD VALLEY & Char-SATURDAY 29: ASHFORD VALLEY At Charling, CATISTICK AT LITTLE Windsor, CLEVE-LAND AT Statistics, CONTROL AT STATISTICS, CLEVE AT STATISTICS, CANDIDATE AT CHARMAN AT CHARMAN AT STATISTICS, CANDIDATE AT CHARMAN AT CHARMAN AT STATISTICS, CANDIDATE AT CHARMAN AT CHARMAN AT CHARMAN AT STATISTICS, CANDIDATE AT CHARMAN AT A CHARMAN A TAUNTON VALE at Kingston St. & CRAVEN at Hackgrood Park.





The romance, the violence, Le Crunch



If the build-up to an England-Scotland match is "jar-ring", to quote Jack Rowell, and preparations for Ireland leave the players wondering whether they will still be in possession of all four limbs come Saturday night, where does that leave the annual set-to with the French?

Off the scale, that's where. Soaked in history and romance it may be, but the Five Nations' Championship still remains secondary in importance to its component parts. Each individual encounter generates and thrives within

its own unique atmosphere and Le Crunch, as this particular match always seems to be labelled these days, is way out there on its own. It took France 17 attempts to register their first victory over the English and when it finally came to pass in Paris exactly 70 years ago, the 3-0 scoreline was more prosaic than poetic. Since then, the pendulum of superiority has swung back and forth with compelling unpredictability.

Yet the cataclysmic nature of the fixture has

become fully apparent only in the last quarter of a century, from the final match at Stade Colombes when the French chalked up a record victory over Les Rosbifs, through the unforgiving Fouroux era of the 1970s and the muscular English dominance of the early 1990s and into the new age of nip and tuck. Chris Hewett recalls 25 years of epic confrontation through the eyes of some of its most

celebrated combatants.



pouble-



ie Skrela, now the French coach, comes under Englis by pressure

English pride humbled by tunnel vision

tremely interesting because the players themselves had made a conscious decision

to play totally spectacular running rugby;

everything was based on attack, on running the ball and keeping it in the hand.

Neither team could win the champi-

onship, so there was no pressure on us to

get a result. We felt free to try to produce

used before running on to the field: We

attack from the tunnel'. There was a tun-

nel at Colombes and you emerged from

behind the dead-ball line at one end. That

was our image for the day and it was a game in which the result was less impor-

tant than the way we played.
"Jo Maso, Jean-Claude Skrela, Max Bar-

rau and Walter all had the same concep-

tion: quality, not quantity. As it happened, we won well, but it could have gone ter-

ribly wrong. It was just that we didn't want to leave the field saying to ourselves: We

didn't dare'."

"I clearly remember the expression we

the rugby of which we were capable.

England Stade Colombes, 26 February 1972

Pierre Villepreux fondly describes it as "un rugby de rêve", the rugby of dreams, and the Englishmen who suffered untold nightmares at the hands of Walter Spanghero's exquisite French side left Paris in the fervent hope that they would never again be subjected to such torture on the field of Colombes. They were granted that much, for this was the last international played at the famous old stadium, but there was no forgetting the extent of the humiliation.

France scored six tries in what remains their most emphatic victory over England and at the time, the indignity seemed even more wretched than it does today. Never had England conceded so many points in a full international and only once had they lost by such a margin - and that had been 67 years earlier in 1905. It is little wonder that Villepreux, the French full-back, recalls the occasion with a smile.

"On the psychological level it was ex-

right spot Parc des Princes, 2 February 1980

Tight five hit the

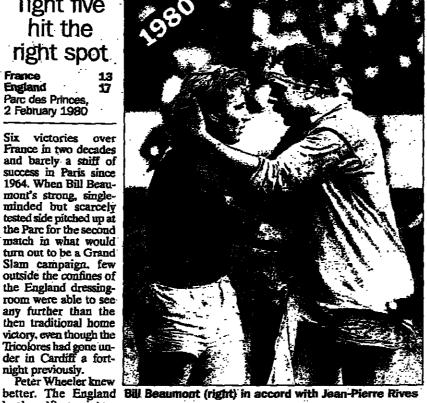
Six victories over France in two decades and barely a spiff of success in Paris since 1964. When Bill Beaumont's strong, single-minded but scarcely tested side pitched up at the Parc for the second match in what would turn out to be a Grand Slam campaign, few outside the confines of the England dressingroom were able to see any further than the then traditional home victory, even though the Tricolores had gone un-der in Cardiff a fort-

Peter Wheeler knew hooker, 18 caps into a

night previously.

magnificent international career, suspected that, not for the first time and certainly not for the last, the French had got it wrong in selection. "I can remember thinking that they'd done the usual, by which I mean that they'd reacted to a defeat by tinkering around positionally and weakened themselves in the process. And when we saw the teamsheet, the evidence was there. There was all soms of nonsense going on."

Indeed. The French selectors moved Alain Maleig from No 8, where he had played at the Arms Park, into the second row. There were debutants in every row of the scrummage as well as at full-back and the English tight five took full advantage, setting up tries for John Carleton and Nick Preston and two drop goal opportunities for



"The whole game plan was based around our pack which, I have to say, was fairly mature. We had some outstanding forwards, most of whom had been around for years but, because our own selection had not been too bright, had not been given the opportunity of playing together," Wheeler recalls.

"It was a bard game: Philippe Dintrans, one of the best bookers I ever confronted, was brought in for the afternoon and that certainly made life awkward. But Bill had grown into the captaincy and was a superb motivator by then and our control was spot



Sweet taste of success for Chilcott

England France 4 March 1989

Gareth Chilcott was always blessed with a graphic turn of phrase - it matched his

a graptic turn of phrase – it matched his approach to the game – so perhaps it is best to let Bath's folk-hero prop tell the story. "At that time, the French had the thumbprint on us. We would go to Paris on a nice spring day, Blanco would fancy it, end of story. But things were beginning to look up; the two previous encounters had been close-run things and we felt that had been close-run things and we felt that if we could really apply ourselves up front, show concrete discipline - not easy for one or two of us, I'll grant you - and control the ball, we could take them.

Sure enough, the French forwards showed signs of frustration pretty early and started dishing it out. There was all sorts going on but we soaked it up, got a lucky break in the first half when Will Carling caught their defence flat-footed after a threequarter move of ours went wrong and

Andy Robinson tied it up late when we stuck it up our jumpers and worked him over from close range. What pleased me more than anything, though, was that we

shut them out, kept them pointless.

"We scrummaged really well that day
and rocked them back all afternoon. I was
up against Pascal Ondarts, who had a bit of the nitty-gritty about him, while on the other side it was Paul Rendall against Portolan. They'd left out Garuet, a real hard case, because they thought Portolan could do more around the field but as soon as they started struggling in the tight. Portolan discovered a sudden injury and Garnet came trundling on. Paul was fairly depressed about that.

There was plenty happening at every ruck, maul, line-out and serum; in these days, you couldn't depend on the touch judges intervening or umpteen different camera angles to warn off the hit men. They had me down as a volatile player – rightly so, I suppose - but I was determined not to retaliate. How did I feel at the end? Tired, but incredibly satisfied."

Blanco finds genius beaten by the boot 2

France Twickenham 16 March 1991

Whisper it quietly and do not, on any account, let this slip to Brian Moore. The Grand Slam shoot-out of 1991 may have been an English triumph, a day when Rob and Rory and Teaguey and Deano and the Pitbull himself erased the memory of the Slow Walk at Murrayfield and brought home the bacon, but it was something else too. It was a day when anyone with a heart felt sorry for the French. Yes, sorry.

Go on, admit it. They were desperately hard done by. Inspired gloriously from the back by the great Serge Blanco on his last visit to Twickenham, the visitors outscored England by three tries to one and would, under today's scoring values, ference, the championship as well.

Besides, Philippe Saint-André's try - The Try - was worthy of winning any championship you care to name. "I think it just summed up the French attitude on the day," says Blanco, who generated the whole wonderful thing from beneath his own posts.
"We knew that for several seasons England had developed into a more and more dangerous side, that they were strong defensively and that there was no point in trying to challenge them purely on the physical level. Instead of trying to batter down the wall, we decided to run round them.

England missed a penalty attempt, Pierre Berbizier fielded the ball behind the goal-line and I called for it. I made as if to touch down but saw that the English hadn't followed up the kick, so I took off." Lafond, Sella and Camberabero all worked the



have snatched a draw and, on points dif- Serge Blanco stips away from the clutches of Mike Teague

right touchline and when Saint-André gathered a delicate cross-chip to score at the posts, the whole of Twickenham knew they had seen genius made flesh.

"The fact that it was my last game at Twickenham never crossed my mind, even when I ran out," Blanco says. "People were predicting that the English would eat us alive, so I was more concerned with proving the contrary. We had a deep-seated conviction that we would remain true to our intuition." But for Simon Hodgkinson's kicking, that intuition would have proved very sound indeed.

Scorers: England: Try R Unde 4; Drop goal R Andrew.

Heslop draws the fire of France

England Parc des Princes, 19 October 1991

"Fiery," says Paul Ackford, five and a half years on. "Very fiery." And in truth, the World Cup quarter-final collision between two nations almost perfectly matched in all but attitude was as blood-curdling as rug-

by gets.

The violent images are branded on the memory: the early targeting of Serge Blanco, the excesses of Eric Champ, Nigel Heslop's late tackle on Blanco and summary justice dispensed in a flurry of fists. But what a match, all the same. Perhaps the finest England performance in 20 years was forced from them by the brilliance of the French, a heady brew of iron discipline and commitment overcoming all manner of tem-

peramental extravagance.
"We were incredibly wound up for that game, but the crucial thing for me was that we were able to keep the lid on the passions we all felt," says Ackford, whose command of the line-out in the final quarter was at the very heart of England's victory. "The moment I thought we might have them was when Nigel was decked by those punches early on. No one in a white shirt over-reacted and that indicated to me that we

could cope with living on the edge.

"The French could be incredibly physical, so fear was a big motivating factor. The fact that this one was a World Cup quarter-final just added something extra to the atmosphere in the dressing-room because we knew that if we lost, we were out. No one remembers losers, so it was now or never. The tension was

The wing Nigel Heslop (centre) found himself in the thick of the action

"My line-out performance may have looked good, but the French had a strange habit of throwing in a no-hoper, or a nonjumper at least, against me. I can remember Wade Dooley saying. How is it you get the easy guys while I get Olivier Roumat? I wasn't complaining, that's for sure.

After that game, the New Zealand referee David Bishop was

manhandled by Daniel Dubroca, the French coach. Somehow, it was of a piece with what had gone before. As they probably say somewhere in Paris, pure frenzy takes a while to die down. rrs. France: Try J-B Lafond; Peneities T Lacron 2. England: Tries R Underwood, W Carling Conversion J Webb; Penanties J Webb 3.

Additional reporting: Ian Bonhwick

Henman set to slip down rankings after Korda gains revenge Korda, who was ranked as anticipation when receiving and to 4-3 after Henman served his

Tim Henman, Britain's No 1, was comprehensively beaten 6-4, 6-4 by the Czech left-hander Petr Korda in the second round of the Italian Indoor Championships in Milan yesterday.

The score suggests a reasonably close contest but Korda dominated play from start to finish and the world No 14 could

high as No 5 in the world four although his serve was not so ears ago, returned Henman's first serve superbly and when it came to baseline rallies the 29vear-old Czech almost invariably came out on top.

more frustrating was the fact that he hit far more first serves into court than his rival and also struck 10 aces to Korda's six.

What made Henman's defeat

But the wily Czech, now ranked 29, showed outstanding

quick as Henman he dropped only 14 points in his 10 service

Henman was under real pressure from the fifth game where he saved two break points with service winners to hold on to a 3-2 lead, but that was the last time he led in the match.

Korda had four more break points in the seventh game and eventually broke through to go first double-fault of the match. That one break was enough to give Korda the first set in 34 minutes and, with his confidence

Henman struggle. Henman saved another break point in the third game of the second set but dropped his service for the second time to trail 2-3. That break again proved enough although there was still some drama to come.

high. Korda continued to make

Trailing 3-5, Henman saved a match point with his 10th ace lose a few ranking places in the and hung on to his service after six deuces. Then he had his first break point in the follow-ing game at 30-40, only for Korda to take the next three points he reached the semi-finals last for victory.

The victory was revenge for Korda who lost to Henman in their only previous meeting, in the 1996 Australian Open. Henman, then very much the underdog, won 5-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-2.

next two weeks following this defeat as well as the fact that he is not playing in the Rotterdam tournament next week, where

Korda's opponent in the quarter-finals will be the Czechborn German David Prinosil. who had a surprise 6.7, 6-2, 6-3 over Mark Philippoussis of

Devils stand by Hope

ice hockey

Cardiff Devils will back their captain, Shannon Hope, when

he contests a grievous bodily harm charge resulting from an incident on the ice. The Great Britain captain and defenceman will appear in

Sheffield Magistrates Court on April over a challenge which left the Sheffield Steelers' Canadian forward, Jamie Leach, in hospital with a double fracture of the checkbone.

M must

े trauma

Ene off

The incident occurred during the Superleague match between the country's top two teams in Sheffield on Boxing Day.

Leach was the dub's leading scorer at the time and as a result of his injury, he missed a crucial part of Sheffield's unsuccessful attempt to beat the Welsh side to the Superleague title. The Canadian is pursuing a civil action for damages.



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Double-edged sword of football's hi-tech revolution

Clemente, who spoke out last autumn against using technology to prevent referees from making mistakes. "Arguments would end if football did that." he said, "and without arguments football will die." Such logic may be lost on Martin O'Neill right now,

After his side lost an FA Cup replay at Chelsea late in extra time on Wednesday, the Leicester City manager could not conceal his outrage. The only goal came from a penalty after the referee, Mike Reed, ruled that Matt Elliott bad fouled Erland Johnsen, although television replays showed that the defender made no contact.

The incident generated a flurry of suggestions yesterday about hi-tech back-up for match officials. They ranged from the sensible - the machines used in tennis to indicate whether the ball is over the line - to the pseudo sci-fi - the electronic tagging

offside decisions.

Among the more plausible concepts given fresh currency by the controversy was that of an additional referee, stationed in front of a TV monitor. The game's world governing body, Fifa, has sanctioned a match between France and Sweden next month in which the referee will be able to study replays on a

screen at the side of the pitch. If the technology is available, runs that strand of opinion which views gadgetry as a metaphor for progress, it is wrong not to exploit it. Especially when, as happened at Stamford Bridge, the human

cye has been deceived. After all, other sports have benefited from the use of action replays and the freeze-frame facility. The photo finish is well established in horse racing, swimming and athletics. Test cricket has introduced a third umpire to arbitrate on runof players, like delinquents, to outs and stumpings. Moreover,

It was Spain's coach, Javier determine relative positions in A penalty that TV evidence showed to be unjust ended Leicester's FA Cup dream but, asks Phil Shaw, is a fourth official watching video replays the right solution?

> football already uses video ev- ference between a referee takidence, with referees often invited to re-examine an incident leading to a caution or sendingoff. If they admit they were wrong, the offence is expunged from the record.

There is, however, a vast dif-

Penalties are difficult. It is the ref-

erea's coinion that counts. He has to decide: "Was it a foul, wasn't it a foul?" The question of fouls is the most dif-

ficult area. The others are comparatively

Simple. We are turning amout some than-ket flotations, a lot of money involved, but will it be used on Hackney Marsh-

es on a Sunday afternoon and will it be football? We are still in the middle

of the working party at the moment and, as someone who has trouble setting their video recorder could testify, it is

a little bit of a complex situation. Gra-ham Kelly, Football Association chief elecutive, on the prospect of using tech-

ing a second look over tea and biscuits at Lancaster Gate and the kind of instant decisionmaking process that might have prevented Leicester's exit. Part of football's universal appeal is

I think it's inevitable that there will

be discussions about whether tech-nology can be used to ensure referees, make the right decisions, but it will be a question of degree, Technology could be used to decide whether the ball has

crossed the line but. In the case of grey

areas such as contact between play-ars and handball decisions, it will sure-

ly be impossible to have anyone other than the referse making on-the-spot decisions. If it's going to take three or four minutes for a fourth official study-ing four or five different camera engles

on a video, that would cause more prob-lems than it sokes. Gordon Taylor, Pro-

executive, it is a "fluid" sport compared with cricket and tennis, which he sees as "static". Rather than relieving the strain on the referee, a "third

games after every incident, you would never finish the match, Sepp Bintter, Fife general secretary.

#If we had a fourth official in the stand

looking at a video, we could see games being held up for several minutes. That would make a nonsense of the game

and it would clearly be impreciteal. John Camidin, League Managers' Associa-

predictable nature. In the words To take an example from the fiof Graham Kelly, the FA's chief nal of Euro 96, the Czech Reits fast, physical and totally m-eye" could actually increase it. contact had been made, the

public's goal against Germany came from a penalty after Matthias Sammer was deemed to have felled Karel Poborsky. In theory, having decided unfair

Judgement day: Should the game adopt new technology? and players going to be prepared to welt before a decision comes back to the referse, and how many camera angles, will you need to ensure that decision is absolutely right? Arthur Smith, Ref-eress "Association general secretury."

E We are not adverse to new tech-nology. We would have to look at it, but it would have to benefit the game in general. What we all have to remem-ber is that football has always been a controversel game. So if we have a third see in the stood have look or the count

errees" Association general secretary.

If The key it to improve both communications and information to the relieves and ultimately we would want to record the position of players and the hall at every given moment: With cameras it is difficult to cover every angle, which is why! I would suggest radio links and the electronic tagging of players. Professor 'Nigot Allinson, University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology (commissione).

referee might have asked his colleague in the stand to check whether or not the challenge was inside the box.

If the answer were "yes", that would appear to be the end of the matter. But the Germans would have been entitled to argue that it was not a foul in the first place. The rows could rage on, turning football into a staccato sport not unlike its distant grid-iron cousin. The relentless tempo of the best British matches might be sacrificed as the players milled about the pitch, awaiting a verdict from on high.

If policing the penalty award is fraught with difficulties, what of the offside decision? In that Euro 96 final, Stefan Kuntz was certainly in an offside position when Oliver Bierhoff scored the winner, but was he interfering with play? No amount of computer wizardry could have taken responsibility for that decision out of the officials' bands.

Yet replays revealed that the

The Israeli national side met a united German team for the first time on Wednesday. The European champions won the friendly 1-0 thanks to a goal from Darius Worz five minutes

from full-time, but the back-

ground to the match was more

interesting than what hap-pened on the pitch in Tel Aviv.

The day before the match,

the German squad paid homage to the past with a visit to

Jerusalem that documents the Holocaust. The atmosphere the following day inside Ramat Gan Stadium is described in

inimitable style by a local jour-

nalist, Danny Ben-Fal of As-

"The German team's visit half a century after the end of

World War II released a flood

of ambivalent emotions in a

country that still shuns the mu-

sic of Richard Wagner, Hitler's

favorite composer, but snaps-

up German-made cars and

washing machines. Some fans heckled during the playing of

sociated Press.

"goal" by Spain's Julio Salinas against England, flagged offside by a linesman, ought to have stood. Synchronised cameras one on the player passing the ball and the other receiving it - would theoretically have enabled the referee to to eliminate any doubt (and eliminated Eng-

land several days carlier). But do the public want the game held up while disputes are pored over? And which decisions will be referred? Unless a line is drawn, it is easy to cuvisage packs of players demanding that the referee consult

the video every few minutes. Three decades on, the dehate over Geoff Hurst's second goal in the World Cup final can still sustain an Anglo-German meeting for hours. As Sfir Clemente intimated, in what was an exemplary display of magnanimity in view of Salinas misfortune at Wembley, arguments are an integral part of a game whose charm is bound up in its very imperfection.

Business not pleasure for Hingis

John Roberts on the tennis prodigy who is returning home in triumph

years old when last she saw the city of Kosice, her birtholace in Slovakia and home to her father still. Yesterday, 13 years on, "Martinka" returned from Switzerland, a tennis prodigy, the youngest Grand Slam singles champion of the century and poised to become the youngest world No 1 in history.

The Slovak Tennis Federation considered it appropriate to hold the Fed Cup tie against the Hingis-inspired

Swiss tomorrow and on Sunday in Kosice rather than Bratislava, even though the Slovakian players are from the

They have making plain her intention to that a large number of Slovak have any memories," she said. "In a way it's nice to see the place where I lived, but the most important thing is the team and

the success. I want to win here." vak Tennis Federation, dismissed speculation that the other girls," Melanie said, inchoice of venue is designed to rattle Hingis. "The original idea was to play in Bratislava," she

Martina Hingis was only three said, "but the only suitable hall had already been booked."

The visit to Kosice at least affords Martina the chance of a reunion with her father, Karol, and her paternal grandmother, "Babitschka". Karol Hingis earns £102 per month as the caretaker of the Na Amicce Tennis Club and is helping with the organisation of the tie, which is indoors at the Mestksa Hala. Yesterday he met his daughter at Kosice airport with a bouquet.

fascination with. 'I didn't grow up the 16-year-old Hingis, who here so I don't have any memories'

put business before pleasure. "I journalists had booked rooms at didn't grow up here, so I don't the team's hotel. Jana Kvasnicova, of the Slo-ter during a flight from Vienna. "This is not fair on the

Such is the

won the Australian Open singles title last month, that the Swiss tennis federation assigned a bodyadvantage." Hingis observed, guard to the squad on learning

> Mclanie, the team's non-playdicating Patty Schnyder and Emmanuelle Gagliardi.



Martina Hingis (right), now close to being the women's world No 1, with her Swiss Fed Cup team-mates

sensation of Martina's return name. Molitor. She had exto Kosice, but she's not the only member of the team."

The youngster's soiourn cannot compare, however, with the emotional return of her namesake, Martina Navratilova, to Prague for the Fed Cup in 1986, the great champion's first visit home after defecting to the United States in 1975. Hingis last saw her father in

December, when he travelled to A Swiss television crew was Brno, in the Czech Republic, to rebuked by Hingis's mother, watch her play in an exhibition match. They stay in contact by ing captain, for paying too telephone. "They just have a much attention to her daugh-regular relationship," Melanie, said, "as good as it can be if you are divorced."

Since parting from her second husband, Andreas Zogg, a Swiss computer salesman, Melanie "Everybody's trying to make a has reverted to her maiden

pressed apprehension about making the trin, recalling that "the time in Kosice wasn't one of the happiest times of my life." Melanie is from the Czech the second round at Wimbletown of Roznov. A former ten-

influence behind her daughter. After leaving Kosice, they lived in Roznov at the home of Melanie's mother until Martina was seven, at which point the pair emigrated to Trubbach in Switzerland with Mr Zogg.

nis player, she coaches Marti-

na and has been the driving

"If Martina has any memories, they are of Roznov," Melanie said, "and most of them are things she has been told by oth-

The only thoughts likely to preoccupy her during the weekend will concern ways to out-

play the opposition. The Slovak team comprises Karina Habsudova, who has defeated Hingis in their three previous matches, Katarina Studenikova, who eliminated Monica Seles in

don, and Henrietz Nagyova. Not that Hingis is lacking confidence. "The Fed Cup is not as important to me as the other tournaments, but it is important to play for Switzerland, and world Group I]," she said. "For once I am going to do it like Steffi Graf - go to the place, look,

play, win and leave." The Wimbledon champion, currently nursing an injured left knee, has withdrawn from forthcoming tournaments at Indian Wells and Key Biscayne.

matic recovery, Hingis will supplant her at the top of the WTA rankings on Monday 31 March, becoming the youngest ever world No 1 at 16 years, six months and one day. Monica Seles was aged 17

years, three months and 9 days when she became the younges No 1 on 11 March, 1991, eclips ing Tracy Austin, who was 17 years, three months and 26 days on 7 April, 1980.

When Hingis was born, on 30 September 1980, Austin was the world No 1, Andrea Jaeger, aged 15, was in the process of becoming the WTA's Newcomer of the Year and Karolj Seles, a cartoonist in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, was making drawings of Tom and Jerry on tennis balls to encour-

such punishments to be re-in-They also want a system of fixed penalties, similar to the one that op-erates in football, to apply to players'

laden Hulf Kingston Rovers have rejected

acen num magazin novers nave represent a £914,000 takeover bid by a consor-tium headed by Bob Jamieson because of "insufficient financial guarantees." Jamieson tried and failed to take over Workington last year.

grenensions.

around the world

the German national anthem while others stood while chew ing on watermelon seeds."

On a less surreal note, Tot tenham's Ronny Rosenthal had an impressive game up

Arsenal's Patrick Vieira made his international debut for France in Wednesday's friendly against the Netherlands in Paris, and watched his Highbury team-mate, Dennis Bergkamp, put the Dutch ahead in the third minute. However, two goals in the last 16 minutes from Patrice Loko and Robert Pires, both substitutes, gave

Elite suffer in Trophy

Non-League notebook RUPERT METCALF

The GM Vauxhall Conference's status as the country's élite non-League competition has suffered a series of setbacks in the FA Umbro Trophy this season: it provides only five of the 16 teams contesting third-round ties tomorrow.

Among the clubs trying to become the first from outside the Conference to reach the Trophy final since Leek in 1990 are Dorchester Town, who have an attractive home tie against Woking. The Dorset's key players are the former Plymouth. Swansea and Torquay playmaker, Russell Coughlin, and the striker Owen Pickard, once age his six-year-old daughter of Plymouth and Hereford, Monica to take a swing at them.

phy with six goals and the joint top scorer in the Dr Martens League Premier Division. Kidderminster Harriers trav-

el to Essex to take on the Icis League side, Heybridge Swifts. who will be looking for another peak performance from their midfielder Mitchell Springett. one of the best non-League players in East Anglia in the 90s.

England's semi-professional side, playing their first fixture this season, suffered a disappointing 2-0 defeat to the ${
m Re}$ public of Ireland in Dublin on Tuesday. Shelbourne's Stephen Geoghegan scored both goals

FINSTAND SEMB-PROFESSIONAL KI: Cookney (Hednesford); Gill (Yeovil), Howarth, Gerdiner both Manciesteth, Brown (Waterg), Webb, parky (both Kotemarsieth, Butherworth, Gramman, Laworthy (ell Rushderl). Hughes (Kotemarsieth, Substitutess of Commor (Hednestort) for Doherty, 61; Kimmins (Hyde) for Hughes, 70; Harlow (Famborough) for Webb, 74; Gothard (Degenham) for Cooksey, 78.

Slough must shake off indoor trauma

Hockey

Slough return to outdoor action after their disappointing journey into the European indoor tourwith a home fixture against Doncaster in the League tomorrow and another in the AEWHA Cup fourth round against Liverpool on Sunday, writes Bill Colwill.

Sam Wright, who missed the trip into Europe last weekend, will be back and the Irish international Sarah Kelleher will be making her long-awaited league debut. The Olympian Anna Bennett is still out after surgery before Christmas while another international, Lucy Cope, will be looking to regain her match fitness with the second XI. Slough's coach John Shaw expeets to play Kelleher in midfield.

On form. Slough should win both games. Victory in the first will keep the pressure on the leaders. Ipswich, who on Saturday seek revenge for a 3-0 defeat by Clifton earlier this season.

> TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of grant video screens round the track that will be used at Silverstone for the British Grand Prix meet ing. Silverstone TV will broad-

cast at least 10 hours' live

programming each race day.

Halifax test West interest

Rugby League

The sacked Wigan coach, Gracme West, is the clear favourite to get the job at Halifax vacated by Steve Simms this week, writes Dave Hadfield.

West has been approached by the club to ask him to apply and has not ruled himself out of contention. "It's flattering to be linked with them. You would always have to be interested in joining such a good club," said West, who was dismissed from his job at Central Park after refusing to

become their football manager Before taking on the Halifax job, however, he would need to be reassured that he would be allowed greater control than he was at Wigan.

Other candidates are the Keighley player-coach, Daryl Powell, Hull KR's Steve Crooks, and Tony Anderson, from Halifax' existing coaching staff. The Halifax football manager, David Hobbs, who is in temporary charge of team matters, said: "No one candidate is preferred over another at the moment."

Navy come to the rescue

Bertrand de Broc, the Vendée Globe solo sailor, became the fourth competitor to be rescued in the 1997-98 round the world race when he was picked up by a French Navy tanker 500 miles from the finish yesterday, writes Stuart Alexander.

His distress signal was picked up by two other ships when they were just 60 miles away from De Broc. They raced to the scene and reported that De Broc's two months.

60ft yacht was capsized with the skipper standing on the upturned hull

De Broc is the fourth competitor who has had to be rescued after Britain's Pete Goss picked up Raphael Dinelli in the Southern Ocean and the Australian Navy effected the dramatic recovery of Tony **Bullimore and Thierry Dubois** A fifth competitor, the

French-Canadian Gerry Roufs. has been missing for nearly

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football 7.30 unless state NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DRVISION Transpere v Stoke (7,45)..... THERD DIVISION
Colchoster v Scarborough (7.45) ...
Doncaster v Wigan

and the second s

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE JEWISON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Newmarket v Sonam (7.45). HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF RE-LAND Premier Division: Bohomians v St Panck's Athena (7.45); Dundalk's Deny Cry (7.45); Shamrock Rovers v Bray (7.45).

Basketball **BUDWEISER LEAGUE:** Worthing Bears v Chester Jets (8.0). Rugby Union

A INTERNATIONALS: England v France (7.30) (at Leichster): Scottand v Ireland (4.0) (at Myreside, Edinburgh). UNDER-21 INTERNATIONALS: Engand v France (6.0) rat Leicester); Scotland v ire-

CLUB MATCHES: Gata v Sellork (7.15); Haw-ick v Nelso (7.15); Peebles v Metrose (8.0); Musselburgh v Boroughmuir (7.0). Other sports BOWLS; Women's English National Indoor Championship (York).

BOXING: Professional promotion: Non 13the flyweight cornect: P War (Sco) v A Han-na (Birmingham) (Grand Hall, Kilmamock), SWINDING: British Club Team Champion-ships (Stockport).

Unless Graf makes a dra-SPORTING DIGEST

Athletics Meriene Ottes, with more major medals to her name than any other athlete in history, is being lined up to take part in the Colin Jackson-organised Welsh Games in Cardiff on 31 May. But Jackson, a training partner of Ottey's, is hopeful the 36-year-old, who has won 34 major champlonship medals, will include the Games on her venues for a planned world tour which will probably mark her retirement. Meriene Ottey, with more major medals

Basketball

NBA: Sacramento 111 Boston 105; Detroit 117 Golden State 117; Orlendo 98 Marin 36; Indiana 92 Seattle 78: Allenta 79 Mitragiliee 72; Minnesota 108 Sen Antonio 89; Pricento 111 Priladelpha 104; LA Clapers 83 Van-couver 80; New York 96 Portland 95 (od).

Riffards

STRACHAN UK CHAMPIONSHIP (Norwich Sport Village) Third round: D Causer (Engl It R Foldwari (Aus) 665-423; S Multani (Ind) It P Gilchwsi (Engl 692-541; I Williamson (Engl It M Rehani Ind) 500-266; R Chapman (Engl It M Spoormans (Bel) 731-276.

Booking
Ryan Rhodes intends to make his mark
on British fight history by defeating Nottingham's Del Bryan at Reading's Rivermead Centre on 14 March. A repeat
victory over the former British welterweight champion will win Rhodes a Lonsdale Belt outinght in the record time of
90 days. Rhodes, who gained a 118second defeat of Peter Waudhy in the
second defeate of this British fight middieweight at Sheffield on Tuesday, beat
Bryan on a close points decision at a
six-round contest late last year.

Durham have completed their third signing of the winter by securing Martin Spelight from Sussex on a three-year contract. The 29-year-old former Durham University student opted for the north east after being offered the chance to resurrect his wicketkeeping career.

Cycling
TOUR OF LANGKAW Ninth stage (184km.
Nusla Teregians to Rota Bahrs, Malaysin):
1 A Taf (R) 3hr 3/mm 11se; 2 M McCormack
(R) stime time; 3 C Agrect; 2 M McCormack
(R) stime time; 3 C Agrect; 2 M McCormack
(R) stime time; 3 N Memore (Nem); 6 P
Dusorm (Bel); 7 N Loda (R); 8 M Memore (Nem); 6 P
Dusorm (Bel); 7 N Loda (R); 8 M Memore (Nem); 6 P
Dusorm (Bel); 7 N Loda (R); 8 M Memore (Lepan) all
aante time. Overall standings: 1 L Sorm (B)
25/tr 5/mar 459se; 2 Mog; (Aus) +2:24ee;
3 A En (R) +2:29; 4 A Lecch (R) +2:31; 5 A
McLson (SA) +2:446; 6 S Lummento (Ru) pame
time; 7 N Loda (R) +2:47; 8 P Bettre (R) +2:53;
9 P Bordenave (R) +3:27; 10 V Ordowska (Gar)
4:35:54.

Football

St Helens, who, along with Wigan, were fined £15,000 for a brawl during the Challenge Cup tie between the two clubs, have called for the right of appeal against the contract of the property of the contract Beiglan club, Beerschot, on a free trans-fer. Oxford have been looking for a refer. Oxford have been looking for a re-placement for Matt Elliott since selling the centre-half to Lelcester for a club record £1 8m record £1.6m.

ice hockey NBIL: Chicago 2 Hertford 2 (ott; New Jersey 5 NY Islanders 3; Priladelphia 8 Ottowa 5; Wash-Ingon 3 Toomo 1; Priceria 5 Cagary 2; Edmonton 3 Anahelm 3 (ot).

A 23-year-old member of the Russian national squad was folled by a single blow to the neck during a local charmpionship bout at the weekend in the city of Penza, "It was a fatal coincidence, a 1 in 10,000 chance," said Alexan-

Rugby League Current United have signed Brian Wilsterman, a 30-year-old Dutchman, on a two-and-a-quarter year contract from the **Rugby Union**

Rusgiby Utalion
SCOTIAND A (r Ireland A, Myreside, today):
D Lae (Watsorians), I Cruig (West of Scotland).
C Marray (Hawtot, R Erlesson (London Scotlard), J Kerr (Watsorians), A Donaldson (Currer), B Barse (Wassorians), P Wingle (Melsore), G Balloch (West of Scotland), S Fergisson (Perbled), S Marray (Bestind), S Grines (Wassorians), S Ratid (Boptughrauh), C Hogg (Melsos), cop.), S Holmes (London Scottish), Replace-tuenets: S Lang (Hernt's FP), S Michol (Weston), arch, S Refered (Weston), Hawton (Melson), Hawton (Melson), Hawton (Melson), Hawton (Melson), Hawton (Melson), Melson (Congresson House), B Carery (Blachotch), M Lysich (Young Muniser), N Woods (London Melson), B Carery (Blachotch), M Lysich (Young Muniser), M McDermott (London Melson), M McDermott (London Melson), M McDermott (London Melson), M McDermott (London Melson), B Cassock (Bath), E Halway (Shannon), A Poley (Sharnon), K Demson (London Helt), Replacements: R Walling (Sersors), S Washi (Cork Constitution), A Matchet (Portown), S Leeby (Barryowen), G Leebe (Dungarnon), S Byrne (Blackrock College).

Wilgan are widely expected to sell their ground to Teaco this weekend, flying in the face of an overwhelming vote by their shareholders last month in favour of stay-ing there. The board of the club has decided that the tarms of a deal proposed by the Wigan Athletic chairman, Dave Whelan, are unacceptable. Whelan had offered to buy the gound for £4m, redevelop it and lease it back to the rug-

WOMEN'S WORLD PARKINGS: 1 S Pc-Garati (Aus), 2 M Martin (Aus), 3 C Jackman (Eng), 4 S Wagn (Eng), 5 L Iving (Aus), 6 S Harner (Eng), 7 C Owens (Aus), 6 S Schone (Gen), 9 C Nitch (SA), 10 F Genes (Eng).

Tennis

main's Jamie Delgado gained a sur-prising win over Denis van Uffelen yes-terday, upsetting the Belgien second seed 6-2, 2-6, 6-3, in the semi-final of the ITA Men's Satellite Masters at Croydon. In today's final Delgado faces the No 3 seed, Mikael Stading of Sweden, who defleated the leading Briton, Andrew Richardson 6-1, 4-6, 6-3, though Richardson still wins the circuit with a two-point margin over Van Uffele I. two-point margin over Van Uffele i. WORLEN'S CHALLENGER (Bushey) Singles, second round: () Barabanschikova (Bela) bt ()

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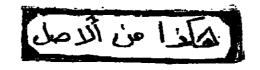
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Coppell in line to replace Bassett

ALAN NIXON

Steve Coppell, who walked out of Manchester City less than four months ago after only 33 days at the club, is in line to return to management with Crystal Palace. Coppell is understood to have been offered the chance to manage Palace for a second time following yesterday's surprise announcement become general manager of

Stuart Pearce, Forest's caretaker player-manager. A club spokesman said: "He will be responsible for everything that Stu-art Pearce doesn't have time to do. Stuart will still be in charge of all team affairs and Dave will be there to support him."

A statement from Palace said that Ron Noades, their chairman, "has been left reeling at the decision and cannot at this stage give any indication who is going to be running team affairs in the

However, it is believed the ob has been offered to Coppell, following his dramatic departure from Manchester City.

The former England international was the most successful manager in Palace's history in his first spell at Selhurst Park. He returned as director of football two years ago, but left last October to join Manchester City. Within a month, however, he had left Maine Road because of health problems caused by what he described as "the huge pressure"

Coppell had taken the City post after Bassett had declined

work for Palace in recent weeks it and decided to remain at Palace. To complete the irony of yesterday's events. Forest have recruited Bassett in the wake of the departures of Frank Clark and Alan Hill, their manager and assistant manager respectively, who are now in

charge at Manchester City.

The Forest spokesman said that Bassett had been brought in "to replace Alan Hill", though the job appears to be much higher-profile than that. Pearce has little experience of buying players and negotiating lieved to have agreed a deal

worth around £400,000 a year, is likely to assume responsibility for these areas.

Bassett said: "I'm not going to be selecting the team or coaching or deciding the tactics. Stuart Pearce is going to be doing that. He's happy for me to come in - had he not been I wouldn't be going to Notting-ham Forest. He's happy for me to give him the support and ex-perience he needs. I have known Stuart for quite a long time. It's going to be a joint situation, but I am not stepping on his toes and I will be doing my

He added: "It's a correct de- to buy new players cision for Dave Bassett, for his career, professional and financial situation and also domestically."

Despite moving to Palace a year ago, Bassett has kept his family home in Yorkshire. He has always wanted to join a big club and is likely to have been attracted by the ambitious plans of Forest's new owners. A consortium headed by Nigel Wray, the owner of Saracens rugby union club, and Irving Scholar, the former Tottenham chairman, won control of Forest this week and has pledged to make substantial funds available

Bassett took Palace into the First Division play-off final last season, only to be beaten in the last minute of extra time by Steve Claridge's winning goal for Leicester City. After a promising start to this season Palace have slumped in recent weeks

and have struggled to keep pace with their promotion rivals. Bassett added that his announcement had come as a shock to Noades, the Palace chairman. "We are still friends, but he's disappointed and I am

Premier League chooses Leaver

Peter Leaver, a leading barris-ter, was yesterday named by the Premier League as its new chief executive. The 52-year-old deputy High Court judge and former Tottenham Hotspur director replaces Rick Parry, who has held the post since the League's launch in 1992 but will now join Liverpool in a similar capacity when his contract expires in June.

T am lucky that Rick Party will still be around to guide me, said Leaver, who starts work officially on 3 April. "As a pas-sionate, lifelong football fan I have looked in from the outside and have certain ideas of what

things could be changed.
"But I've learned from my experience at the bar that it is not sensible to try and do so until you completely understand all the issues involved. In other words, I start with an open mind

on everything."

Leaver will become one of the game's most important behind-the-scenes figures, with the Premier League facing major discussions over television coverage and the imminent arrival of pay-per-view, and also over the future of club football in Europe. His salary will be £200,000 per year. Arsenal have revealed that an

exploratory operation on David Seaman's injured knee has been successful, but that the England alkeeper will not return to action for at least a month. The 33year-old entered hospital for an arthroscopic probe in which a miniature camera revealed a small tear in the cartilage, which as now been removed. He damaged the knee in a freak accident at home three weeks ago

Police have decided not to take any action following the mass brawl between Chesterfield and Plymouth Argyle players in a Second Division fixture on Saturday. Four players were sent off by the referee, Richard Poulain, after Plymouth's goalkeeper, Bruce Grobbelaar, was concussed at a corner. The police have decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Football Association.

Wigan Athletic want to take Manchester United's Northern Ireland international centrehalf, Pat McGibbon, on loan with a view to a permanent deal. Chesterfield have agreed a £30,000 fee for the Huddersfield Town striker, Iain Dunn, while their FA Cup quarter-final opponents. Wrexham, have offered £100,000 for the Aston Villa forward Neil Davis.

Lloyd plans more time for training

Cricket

MARK BALDWIN

David Lloyd has already mapped out plans for England's travels in the West Indies next winter - including a twoweek preparation stay in Antigua and time with families

later in the tour. Lloyd, the England coach, believes lessons should be learned from this winter's campaign in Zimbahwe and New Żealand. itinerary. A pre-Christmas trip to Sharjah, for a one-day tournament also involving the West Indies, Pakistan and India, has already been arranged by Lloyd - but he feels that more practice and time for fitness work needs to be done in the West In-

dies before the tour begins. When we arrived in Zimbabwe we were fit, but they caught us cold by picking damn near a Test side in the first game," Lloyd said. "I don't want to be caught out like that again". England will now leave for the West Indies early in the new year and Lloyd is planning to have a couple of 100 overs per-side warm-up games arranged for the initial fortnight.

The Caribbean programme includes five Tests and five oneday internationals, with the one-dayers coming at the end of the tour.

concentrate on England's final two one-day internationals in New Zealand and yesterday he talked about the competitive environment now being encouraged within the England set-up. We now have a strong nucleus of players - especially when you look at what we have achieved this winter." he said. "The Under-19s went to Pakistan and won, the A team went to Australia and won and

No. 3214, Friday 28 February

Heads back for German

A duty to protect HM's

They're suitable for draw-

ers, these facial features

10 Poet's kingdom, Arabian at

11 Ruination? Or a hit in EC?

12 Gather mould, note, on

13 Saw one dropped rattled

15 Sweet sound of brass with

piano work (8) 18 Senses, or suffers, irritation

21 Shelter provided by two

19 Blow one's nose (4)

city on Sunday (6)

train (S)

heart (4)

the turn (b)

we have been successful in New

Today sees the start of the first Test between South Africa and Australia in Johannesburg and for once the fast bowlers will be overshadowed by the battle between the two leg-spinners: Shane Warne and Paul Adams. Both sides are aware of the match-winning potential both men possess

The Australian coach, Geoff Marsh, said: "We've spent a lot of time watching Adams on video and the boys are looking forward to playing against him. We've formulated a few ideas on how to play him and the guys

are relishing the challenge."

Marsh's South African counterpart, Bob Woolmer, said: "People are saying that since his operation Warne doesn't pose the same threat, but I think it's more a question of exposure. Like everyone in cricket, once people get used to you, you have to work harder for your wickets, but Shane remains a class act and we regard him very high-

However. Warne has been overshadowed of late by the emergence of Michael Bevan as a Test-class back-of-the-hand howler. Bevan's pace through the air is in his favour on a Wanderers pitch that is not likely to offer quick turn even to Warne

Australia are expected to in-Matthew Elliott at No 3, with Matthew Hayden opening the batting with Mark Taylor. They have been carrying a number of niggling injuries, but expect to be able to select their strongest side, with the pace bowler Jason Gillespie looking set to share the new ball with Glenn McGrath. Jonty Rhodes, whose fielding will be valuable, may return to the middle order in place of Adam Bacher.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Adept at summing up? (8)

State is not too elever(10)

Story's point? Continue

26 One questioned about a

28 Feeble, lady's man? Not

DOWN

troduced by author (5)

Skip joint, including King

Stone idol? Wrong, wood-

When not to mind one's

own business? (5,7.3)

Suit established by the

Dogs, menaces, biting

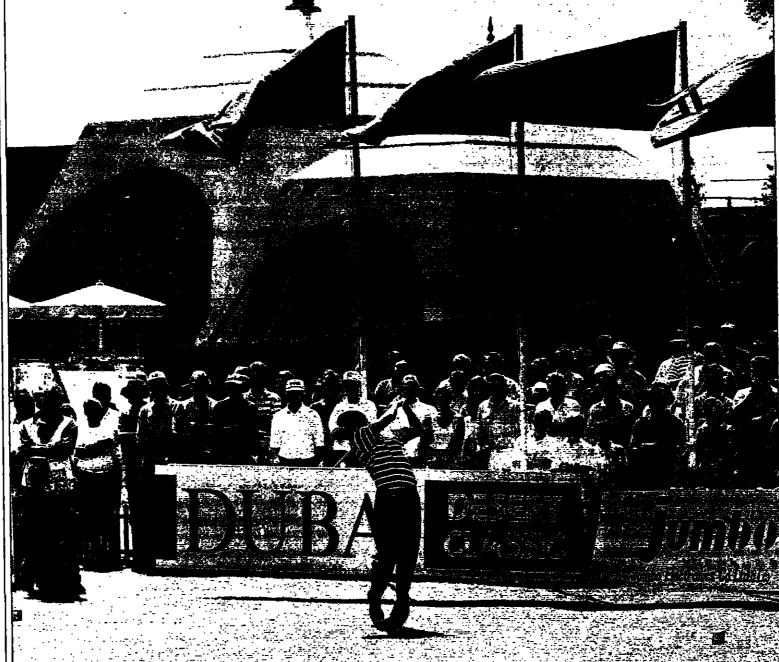
Name last of characters in-

turning (4)

Edward (4)

players (8)

cn (h)



Back in the big time: Jose Maria Olazabal tees off in the Dubai Classic yesterday after an 18-month absence with arthritis

is TV the answer to bad refereeing?

drawn, it is easy to envisage packs of players demanding that the referee consult the video every few minutes'

Phil Shaw, page 27

Dhow sank, disintegrating about Eastern bed (9)

Bring debts upon oneself,

County beaten, reportedly

without interest? (9)

One and all ringing up.

Silver left in crown? (5)
 Articles concealing correspondent's last letter (5)

getting editor distracted

falling apart (8)

Neat meal (9)

Olazabal back on his feet with round of 69

ANDY FARRELL reports from Dubai

In the gloaming that is the rapid twilight of the Middle East, a beacon of European golf was relit. With a sand wedge in his hands, Jose Maria Olazabal hit his third shot at the par-five finishing hole to three feet for his fourth birdie of a day that

he has waited for so long. A round of three-under 69 after a break of 18 months with a arthritis of the fect was highly impressive. The Spaniard never did look that comfortable when walking, hunched for-ward and rocking from side to side, but the limp that developed two years ago was missing. Certainly present was the dismissive shrug when a putt refused to fall.

Early morning fog had delayed play in the first round of the Dubai Desert Classic which meant Olazabal did not tee off

until 1.50pm. The reception was warm and his gallery only dwin-dled to catch the dramatics in the group in front.

Collectively they were 19 under. Colin Montgomerie began the defence of his title with a seven-under 65, to tie with Spain's Domingo Hospital for the lead, while Padraig Har-rington and Bernhard Langer were both at six under, alongside two former champions Mark James and Eamonn Darcv. "I think it is terrific for Jose to break 70," Montgomerie said. "That will give him a lot of confidence and all of us a lot

of confidence. A poor chip at the ninth caused Olazabal's only dropped shot which is testament to his short game. Having turned in level par, the Masters champion of 1994 holed from 30 feet at the 15th and 18 feet at the next before also claiming the

little nervous on the first tee, but nothing dramatic. I hit the ball OK, but nothing very close. At the end, when I didn't expect it, I holed a couple of long putts. One of the things I have missed most is the competition but to-

day I just told myself to do my And the feet? "I don't want to talk about that," he said. Greg Norman, playing his first full tournament for three months, actually looked the more rusty of the two and found the water twice during his 71. The same could not be said of Montgomerie, who, when he did go off line into the sand left of the 13th fairway, faded a two-iron out of trouble to two feet.

"It is always nice to be able to tap in for an eagle," Monty, who also recorded five birdies and no bogeys, said. "Padraig putted as well as anyone I've seen and I enjoy playing with Bernhard Langer. He is always "I am pretty happy with the result," Olazabal said. "I was a nice guy to beat," he added.

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Irish give Ashton six-year deal

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWETT

tous rugby setbacks by describing the situation as "critical, but not serious". England's six-try romp in Dublin a fortnight ago seems to have concentrated a few minds wonderfully, however, and Brian Ashton, the former Bath coach who has been working with the national team in an advisory capacity since January, was vesterday ewarded a six-year contract.

Ashton is now Ireland's national coach and the deal takes him through to the 2003 World Cup - an unprecedented term. not only for Ireland but for any major Test-playing country.

treatment allowed the 23-year months since he walked out on Bath expecting to sign on at his old first choice to pass muster in a vigorous session yesterday. Wales, who do not have a

sit on selection with Pat Whe-Five Nations match this weeklan, the Irish team manager, and end, are not enjoying any such an as yet unnamed third committee member. Ashton, a 49year-old former scrum-haif who toured with England in Australia in 1975, will probably continue England, meanwhile, received the weekend.

trained with the squad on

luck on the mjury front. Arwel Thomas, their precocious outside-half, had a knee put in plaster yesterday after picking up an injury during Swansea's Swalec Cup victory over Pontypridd at

Although Welsh sources expect him to be fit in time to face England in Cardiff on 15 March, there was more concern about Thomas' club colleague, Christian Loader. The loose-head prop has undergone knee surgery and is rated extremely doubtful

Ironically, it is still less than two

local social security office.
It now seems likely that he will The Irish used to react to calami-

> to live in Somerset. the fitness news they had been hoping for all week when Richard Hill the Saraceus openside flanker, declared himself fit to face France at Twickenham tomorrow. Leicester's Neil Back

Wednesday as cover for Hill, and is rated extremely doubti whose sprained ankle had given for the championship finale.